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Alexr. Dunbar

A TREATISE

ON THE

Diseases Incident to the Horse,

ESPECIALLY TO THOSE OF THE FOOT,

SHOWING THAT NEARLY EVERY SPECIES OF LAMENESS ARISES FROM CONTRACTION OF THE HOOF,

WITH A

PRESCRIBED REMEDY THEREFOR,

DEMONSTRATED BY A MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED HORSEMEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND,

BY

ALEXANDER DUNBAR,

ORIGINATOR OF THE CELEBRATED "DUNBAR SYSTEM" FOR THE PREVENTION AND CURE OF CONTRACTION.

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INTRODUCTORY.

——:o:——

It is probable, that some may believe, that the writer and compiler of the following work is not well informed; not having trodden the regular pathway through veterinary science. Yet had he followed in the footsteps of his predecessors, his time would have been taken up in comprehending, and imitating, that which has been already written, instead of originating his new, and better system. The only regret to beexpressed is, that so much suffering has been caused by error, and that this simple system, had not been sooner discovered, when it was so greatly needed.

May we not be excused, if we say, it makes the blood boil, and the heart quiver with indignation, when we see men, instead of honestly acknowledging their errors, cling to their old prejudices, though broken from under them by piece-meal.

Is it right, that men of science, the appointed guardians of this noble animal, the horse, should be suffered to continue a system through pride, or the sake of gain, without rebuke and exposure, when remonstrance has no

effect? Dr. C. C. Grice, if I have been rightly informed, called at the Field, Turf and Farm Office, to object to the publication of articles similar to one I had written (See page 84) concerning Professor Gamgee, wherein I quoted a statement made by him, that only three per cent. of his pupils were practically useful, and to these competent ones, he invariably returned their fees, and procured them situations with agricultural societies.

The Editor replied, that all that had been asserted in the article was correct; and that the operation had been performed under Mr. Dunbar's supervision.

Dr. Grice then remarked that even if it *was* true, he should not have published it, as it was ruinous to their business.

Why such obstinacy? Are the injuries created by ignorance to become temptations to gain? or, are the yieldings so prolific?

Their mistakes or blunders, are, indeed, numerous, and should be humiliating, at least such cases as that of "Brother Jonathan."

I have often been asked, why not write a book, giving the precise information. It would certainly be invaluable, because it would the more speedily disseminate the requisite knowledge, could it be done, but my system cannot be thoroughly described in this way, even were it written in the plainest language; otherwise, spectators could learn it.

But from what I shall write, if carefully studied, many wrongs and mistakes may be corrected by those who have clear heads, such only, as I dare trust to teach my youthful science.

Curious enough, that with all the convincing proofs of my ability to teach how to remedy the varied diseases of the feet, that few of those persons, whom I have consented to teach, take instruction, except they have at least, one lame horse at the time; although endorsed by men of standing, that it is much better as a preventive, as also an aid in purchasing horses, and in judiciously controlling the groom, coachmen, &c., for nothing is so intimately connected with the health and good condition of one's favorites, as sufficient knowledge in the owner to control and direct, understandingly, all subordinates who have the care of them.

After my return from Europe, it is my intention to write up the system as clearly as possible, with the knowledge I may acquire while there, giving practical instruction in connection.

My great aim heretofore has been, to protect the system. This I could not have done, had I taught careless or incompetent persons, for in doing so, my system would soon have come into disrepute, through their misapplication of it. A written description of my system, at present, would be ruinous.

To introduce one mistake, in connection with any new innovation, would be chronicled to the ends of the

earth, while every success is only what is expected, and though many cures that I have accomplished were, when undertaken, looked upon as miraculous if completed, yet, when performed, are only looked upon as matters of course. For instance, General Meigs, Quartermaster General, said, if I cured a pony of his with sprung knees he would pronounce it a miracle. When I had accomplished it, in much less time than I had promised him, he too, looked upon it as a matter of course.

He imposed this test on me after the Military Committee had been satisfied by examining my specimens, and the reports of gentlemen, beyond suspicion, certifying to its merits from having witnessed the results of a thorough application of it on both railways, (he being well acquainted with the Presidents of both roads,) besides, Congress having passed an act, authorizing the Secretary of War to contract with me for the use of my discovery. Yet, in the face of all this, he treated me as if he owned the whole country, and as though all who had recommended it previously were not capable of understanding it, or were not reliable. He too thought I could describe it in writing, and get it copy-righted, but he now knows, that neither the patent, nor copy-right laws could apply it judiciously. It must be carefully sustained by competent men, of artistic ability. I have refused to teach those whom I thought incapable while introducing it, for, if incompetent, their mistakes would do me more harm than their money would do me good.

The foot of the horse, though a small thing, is very complicated, and Veterinary science has done very little more than understand the anatomy of it, the material and the complication. Nature has little to do with the foot of the horse in a domestic state, its functions are so very much changed by shoeing and labor. The parts of the hoof most useful in the bare-foot, have become most injurious when shod. The least malformation affects the whole complication, the growth is so singular and irregular. There is no man that has written a useful paragraph on the treatment of the foot that I have seen, and I have seen almost everything that has been written upon it, and not one author, either in Europe or America, has ever written intelligently or instructively upon the subject with reference to its changed condition. On the contrary, in this work, I propose giving a brief history of my success in the treatment of the horse's foot, thereby opening a new channel for thought, rather than compiling a number of meaningless recipes.

That which has been written on Anatomy and Physic, on the whole, with the exception of the foot, is, perhaps, as good as anything that I could say, but when my infant system shall have become a strong youth, I will then write my views as plainly as I can, for then a few mistakes made by incompetent operators, would not have the fatal tendency they would now. No person, I am sure, ever understood my system previously to my discovery of it, for had they, they would not have ceased using it. Besides if even partially understood, one could not forget any

part, but would most certainly keep improving. Those persons, "Spooner" and others, who have spoken against cutting out the heels, no doubt meaning a part of the frog as well as the hoof, were so far right in condemning the practice; for where that *alone* is done, without proper fitting of the shoe and driving of the nails, without judicious application and proper exercise, it is injurious, and is similar to destroying the abutments of an arch in masonry.

From my other articles you will observe that I have described the sole of the hoof as the only part of the foot having the power, that is, when its functions are retained by proper treatment, to resist the encroachment of the wall or sides of the hoof. The frog, so much resembling the open space of an arch, has neither the power from its locality and connection, nor the ability in material, to force a substance greater in quantity, stronger in quality, and much more strongly fortified by position and shape. Lift the foot so that the toe will be uppermost, and the sole or base in a perpendicular position, and you will observe that the sole resembles as much as anything possible, an arched bridge, the frog representing the open space.

Those who denounce my system, while ignorant of its complication and merit, and have based their opinions upon the errors of others, are much less censurable than those who have witnessed its effects and say it is good, but that their father, grandfather or somebody else, used

it heretofore to their knowledge, and very successfully too. Common sense teaches that there is no truth in the statement, else they would have improved upon it instead of retrograding or forgetting it altogether, since the condition of their horses feet controvert the statement.

I have heard many persons say, while witnessing my operations, that they had seen different individuals perform in a similar manner, when their surprise and alarm even at seeing a few drops of blood, during my treatment of the horse's foot, made their statement a questionable one. My method of operating being so different from the authorized one, that a person conversant with it need show no alarm, for after their first exclamation and nervous shock is over, like Mr. John Richards and Professor Gangee, they are all attention.

Others declare it novel in the most hearty and emphatic language, and in a little time adopt it as their own. with the excuse for doing so that they too had a few thoughts upon the subject, which transformed it into an entirely new system they unblushingly call their own. This they do for awhile until they really believe it to be so, and then have the hardihood to publish it *as* such. The condition of the horses feet in the locality in which they operate, is the only truthful test. If their statements were correct, there would be no deformities or surplus material of hoof for me to work upon. It is therefore, idle and useless for men to deprecate its utility,

whose only object in doing so is to foster their long cherished, over-weaning conceit. Innocent as they may think themselves in this respect, they cling to their vanities even after their prejudices have slipped from them, and on it alone collect and cling to as much as possible, of the ruins of their old, tumble-down, erroneous hobby, despite all their assertions, professedly, to the contrary.

DUNBAR ON THE HORSE.

CHAPTER I.

[Report from War Department after one year's experience of my system.]

INSTRUCTION IN HORSE-SHOEING.

Under the joint resolutions of 28th July, 1866, the Secretary of War contracted with Alexander Dunbar for one year's services in teaching his mode of treatment of the horse's foot to the farriers of the Army.

Mr. Dunbar traveled extensively, visiting and teaching at many military posts, from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to the frontier of Texas. His year's service was completed on the 24th of August, 1869, and he was paid the sum of $25,000 besides his traveling expenses, in accordance with the terms of his contract.

A report of his operations, based upon such incomplete information as was transmitted to this office, was submitted to the War Department on the 27th August, 1869. Those officers who have taken an interest in the subject, report very favorably of the result. At Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, the depot of the Cavalry of the Army, a school for instruction of smiths, under this system, has sent some thirty farriers to the Cavalry Regiments, competent to apply the system.

The Commanding Officer at Carlisle, General J. P. Hatch,

reports the system entirely successful, and that a large number of contracted and otherwise diseased feet have been successfully treated, and that the proportion of horses on the sick report, unfit for service, is reduced to one-half what it was before Mr. Dunbar's instructions were given at that place.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1870.

The following extracts from a Report of Brevet Brigadier General John P. Hatch, Major 4th U. S. Cavalry, commanding Carlisle Barracks, Pa., relating to Mr. Alexander Dunbar's system of horse-shoeing, addressed to the Quartermaster General, through the Adjutant General of the army, under date of March 31, 1870, are published, with the approval of the Secretary of War, for the information of all commanders of military posts and officers of the Quartermaster's Department:

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster General, Brevet Major General U. S. A.

[EXTRACTS.]

"I have the honor to report that after more than a year's trial, at this depot, of the system of horse-shoeing introduced by Mr. Alexander Dunbar, it has proved entirely successful.

"At the time of Mr. Dunbar's arrival, the feet of the horses at the depot were, from bad shoeing, in a most wretched condition. Many of the horses were unsafe as troop horses, and others unable to do the duty required of them.

"At the present time I do not doubt that their feet would compare favorably with those of any hundred horses in any service in the world.

"Since the opening of a school for blacksmiths under the control of Mr. John Kiernan, in the month of August of last year, twenty-seven instructed blacksmiths have been sent to regiments, and nineteen men are now under instructions.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

"The following cures have been effected since Mr. Kiernan took charge of the school:

"Fourteen quarter and toe cracks; four bruised and sensitive soles; seven cases of thrush; four corns; two cases combined corns and hoof-bound, and one bruise.

"A large number of contracted feet have been under treatment and are doing well, with prospect of permanent cure. The treatment—a peculiar

method of shoeing which does not interfere with the use of the horse—requires time.

"The average percentage of horses on the sick report is only one-half of that previous to the introduction of the Dunbar system.

* * * * * * * * * * *

(Signed) JNO. P. HATCH,
"*Major 4th Cavalry,*
"*Bvt. Brig. General U. S. A. Commanding.*"

LETTER OF JOSEPH B. COLEMAN, V. S.

To Alexander Dunbar, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—

Understanding that you intend shortly to visit Europe, with the view of introducing there, your system of treating the foot of the horse both prophylactically and curatively, I deem it no less a duty than a privilege, and as a close and critical observer of your "modus operandi," that I should bear my mite of testimony, to the efficiency of that system, as far as I have had opportunities for judging it, which have not been few nor far between.

When I first had the honor of an introduction to you, and witnessed the application of your method of treatment, in a case of extreme lameness, of a valuable mare, arising, obviously, from severe contraction of the heels of the fore feet, I confess I was not a little astonished at the free use made of the drawing knife, and the confidence and boldness with which its movements were directed.

It appeared to me that the remedy was likely to prove worse than the disease, and I certainly predicted its utter failure in fulfilling the purpose intended.

I watched the cure, however, with a keen professional eye, and I am bound to acknowledge, that I saw the same mare within a fortnight afterward, tripping along gaily over the ice-glazed pavement, not a movement giving indication of the existence of pain, tenderness, restraint or lameness whatever.

One of my College Preceptors, used to say to his pupils somewhat frequently; "when once you get hold of a fact, never let it go; stick to it in spite of everything."

Now here, I thought was a fact, and the fact was as obstinate in sticking to me, as I was disposed to stick to the fact.

Then arose the question; Is this improvement destined to be a permanent one, or is it but of a transient value?

The answer to this leads me to the second fact, which is; that for six

months, I have watched this particular case, as well as many similar cases in the course of my practice, in this city, and I am not aware of a single instance in which the application of your system has not proven itself of immense permanent, as well as of immediate, benefit. I can, therefore, no longer hesitate to recommend its adoption in a variety of chronic foot lamenesses, and particularly in those where the causes are said to be occult, and appear inscrutable to ordinary professional observation.

In the interests of truth and of justice to you and myself, I must regret that a tone of invidiousness and professional jealousy should pervade the remarks of some of my professional brethren, who have thought proper to assail you rather than your system. That system I consider at once, simple, efficient, scientific and humane; and I have had, and can have, no sympathy with those who indulge in petty, caviling remarks upon non-essential matters, while the great question remains unanswered, and who, moreover, fail to show a more excellent way.

If the tactics of such were adopted in another field of warfare, they would be found to consist, rather, in hovering about, and annoying the outposts of the enemy, instead of advancing to the assault of the chief position.

Sincerely hoping that your trip may be a prosperous and agreeable one, and that you will return laden with those honors and rewards to which you are so eminently entitled,

I have the honor to remain, dear sir,

Yours, very faithfully,

JOSEPH B. COLEMAN,

M. R. C. V. S. England.

LETTER OF S. B. BISHOP, V. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct., 14, 1864.

I have examined Mr. Dunbar's specimens of diseased feet, and frankly confess that he is in advance of the veterinary practice on the the hoof.

His reasoning is practical, and I doubt not his system will be a boon to the horse and a great benefit to his owner.

Signed, S. B. BISHOP, V. S.

Member of the Royal Veterinary College of London and member of the Veterinary College of Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. Bishop's opinion was asked and given in the office, and in the presence of George Gideon Esq., President of the Washington and Georgetown Railway Company, before purchasing my system for the use of the Company.

LETTER OF ROBERT GORIE, V. S.

GLANFORD, JULY 14, 1863.

I certify that I have tested and purchased Mr. Dunbar's treatment of

horses feet, and after an experience of eighteen years as a Veterinary Surgeon, six years in Scotland and twelve years in America, I say it is the best that has been discovered.

Signed, ROBERT GORIE, V. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 30th, 1864.

CAPT. C. H. TOMPKINS, U. S. A. A. Q. M.

Captain:

I have the honor to report the result of my examination of specimens of diseased horses feet shown me by Mr. Dunbar.

I respectfully submit the following report:

From what I saw and learned of his treatment of diseased feet, as also his method of shoeing as a preventive, I am sure it would be of immense value and benefit to the service, and save the horse from much suffering. I am now satisfied that the present system of shoeing is the cause of almost all the diseases the foot is subject to. My knowledge of horses in their wild state, during my stay on the Pacific Coast, together with what Mr. Dunbar has shown me, convinces me of the necessity of a better system.

Signed, L. H. BRALY, V. S.

"LADY RYSDYKE," PRESENTED BY WM. M. RYSDYKE, ESQ., TO ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

Chester, N. Y., March 23, 1869.

ROBERT BONNER, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—

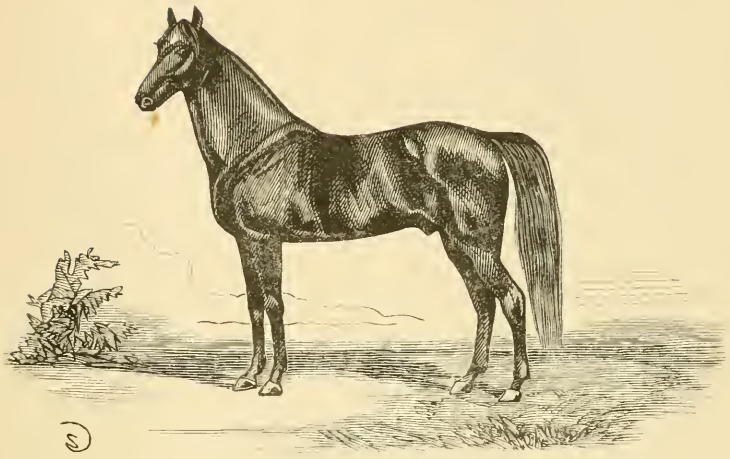
Will you be kind enough to present this young filly to Mr. Dunbar as a practical acknowledgment of his skill made manifest on my horse, the celebrated Hambletonian.

In a moment he showed me that his defect was external, removing the cause immediately without destroying a hair.

Said filly is a brown, with four white feet, and a star, foaled in July, 1867, sired by Hambletonian, dam by Long Island Black Hawk, grand-dam by imported Bellfounder.

Yours Truly,

WM. M. RYSDYKE.



THE CELEBRATED RYSDYKE'S HAMBLETONIAN.

PORTIONS OF HOOF REMOVED FROM OLD HAMBLETONIAN

CHAPTER II.

LADY RYSDYKE AND OLD HAMBLETONIAN.

Before treating the celebrated old Hambletonian, the late Mr. Rysdyke (who by the way was a self-made man, of good family, his father being a Lutheran Minister) showed me all the stock on his place, both those of his customers, as also his own. He asked me which I thought the most promising as a trotter, among the young stock. I selected the young "Lady," as her frame was compact, and well set, muscles strong and well arranged, nervous temperament, agile and quick in action, with eyes like the gazelle, one encircled with a broad rim of white, the exact counterpart of Dexter.

At this time, I had not the shadow of a thought, of ever possessing her, much less as a token, or "souvenir" of my ability in rescuing her noble sire, the celebrated Old Hambletonian, from an untimely death.

As nearly as I can remember, Old Hambletonian had been useless for about sixteen months. While there are many who are aware of the large revenue this noble animal brings his owner, there may be some, who, would not, for a moment, suspect, that a horse could be worth $500 per day to his owner, through the larger portion of the year. There was a time, however, when Old Hambletonian's service, was worth only four dollars.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Rysdyke became very anxious about the health and condition of the horse, as he seldom laid down, and when he did so, he required assistance to rise.

If my memory serves me right, he had not lain down from ten to sixteen days and nights, for the reason that, when down, he could not get up alone, he had become so feeble and stiff in the legs, which was supposed by experts, to be rheumatism.

Though apparently having good feet, indeed, Mr. David Bonner asserted, that "they were as good as any in Orange County," yet the coffin bones were moved up in the hoof an inch or more above their proper position, as the pieces, or fractions sawn from the hoofs and exhibited on this Plate, will attest to those who understand my system.

After having treated him, (which was a tedious and difficult job, as he could scarcely stand quiet a half a minute, while treating any one foot, until after having gotten one shoe on, when he could stand as well as any horse) I desired the groom to lead him out.

This the old gentleman, Mr. Rysdyke objected to, saying "he would certainly fall down, and then as he could not get up without help, all the neighbors would know how bad he was."

I persisted, as I knew the horse was rusting away for want of exercise, being weak and debilitated from long and close confinement in a stable or room illy ventilated, with a chilling and malarious atmosphere under and around it, though extravagantly finished. The horse being old, his blood was thin and chilled, and he required fire to dry the damp atmosphere; neither was he sufficiently clad, considering his age and the torpid condition of his system generally.

As I still persisted, the old gentleman remonstrated further, even regretting the license he had given me, and started with his cane, at a brisk walk from the place, quite forgetting his rheumatism, declaring he "would not witness the humiliating scene that would follow."

His assertion was nearly verified, for Old Hambletonian had the narrowest of escapes from falling, in turning, after having come out of his stable.

I then followed him, whisking a rawhide within his hearing, very much to the annoyance of the old patriarch, or sire of famous trotters.

Old Hambletonian, in his more youthful days, permitted no indignities ; neither groom nor blacksmith, dare touch or handle his hind legs, in the light of day. His distinguished owner, though, won his affection by caressing him in the dark ; and in this way, by patience and perseverance, accomplished that, which, in no other way, could have been done, except, by violence ; and that must have been of two severe a character, to risk it, on so spirited, noble and valuable an animal.

No wonder the old gentleman refused to witness a scene he was so fully persuaded would follow.

The poor, debilitated, decrepid, swaying old frame, that had once been as agile as the gazelle, as noble and powerful as the lion, as quick and as much on the alert, as the tiger, though weak and feeble, yet his eye, bright and piercing, as the lynx, reflected the indignity, of being controlled by a whip in a strangers hand.

He who, by his merit, had raised his owner from almost obscurity and want, to the envious position he then held of opulence and distinction, no wonder he could not bear to witness his faithful old favorite, whom he looked upon more as his patron than servant, down on the open lawn, where, in order to raise him, must have necessitated the use of both block and tackle ; but to his satisfaction, and my great gratification, he was happily disappointed.

The old gentleman had at this time reached a high knoll, between a quarter and half a mile from the place, disgusted with his late arrangment in giving the control of the horse entirely into my hands.

Turning on the summit of this knoll, he cast a timid, inquiring look back to Old Hambletonian, when, to his surprise and delight, he observed him stepping much more actively than even I had hoped for.

In a short time, Old Hambletonian began to travel with

much more ease, covering the tracks made by his fore feet, though at first he could not have stepped farther than six inches at a time. I followed him with the whip, whisking it behind him, while we made a walk on the grassy sod of the lawn surrounding two rows of dwarf pear trees, an excellent walking ground for the exercise then required.

The pressure of the excessive material in the frog, sole and bars having been properly disposed of by the operation, the flex or tendon, with its concomitants, being again in possession of the space designed for it in its normal condition, enabled him to increase the distance of his step at every effort; each contracted tendon commenced to relax, the partially dry, and decayed ligaments assumed their native functions, the rusty joints begun to play naturally, as of old, incited by the action of the tendon, ligaments, &c., creating an increased secretion of lubricating matter to such joints and members of the body as required it.

The noble old horse, with head erect, and ears accompanying the strained effort of his eye, following some moving object in the distance, until with a loud and thrilling neigh he looked his youthful self again on recognizing his old master, who, (with heaving breast, panting breath and tearful eye, his cane under his arm, which he afterwards told me he had forgotten to use, in his pleasure and excitement, from the time he had left the summit of the knoll,) seized my hand with both of his, and declared "the change I had wrought so suddenly in the horse was more than a miracle."

The horse having been returned to the stable, we repaired to the house where dinner was awaiting us; when we were about to partake of it, he suddenly jumped up from his chair and asked me to return with him to the court or barn-yard. He pointèd to the filly, and asked me again, if I "thought her better than any of the others." I replied that "I did, as a trotter." "Better" he continued "than Ajax?" a favorite stallion colt. I said "yes." He turned to me, his countenance radiant with a happy expression, and said in a voice intre-

mingled with tears, "will you accept of her? it is the best way I have of expressing my gratitude." I could not understand him, and asked him to repeat what he had said, which he did in a more plain and settled voice. I hesitated a moment, being somewhat surprised, and said I would accept her on one condition; that I should name her after his wife, which I afterward did, registering her name as "Lady Rysdyke," with her pedigree, in "Wilkes Spirit of the Times." He also presented her to me formally, through Mr. Bonner, that I might publish it when registering her name, which I did at that time.

To return to my story. After having given him the necessary instructions how to exercise him, by drawing him in harness, which had not been done for about twenty years, he was soon able to get up a "scrape" as I had directed. I also ordered him clay and the bark of black willows to eat, in order to restore his debilitated constitution, as the defects in his feet were not all that troubled him.

Mrs. Rysdyke, also, aided much in bringing him to his present healthy condition, by the use of herbs, and little attentions so greatly needed, in conjunction with her husband, who was a very capable man, and of course gave him the best of care.

Old Hambletonian was soon fully restored, and continued to yield his usual revenue.

The Filly is now four years old, and when more fully matured, I purpose taking her to Europe, where I trust she will do honor to her famous sire, as also to this continent.

CHAPTER III.

LETTER OF ROBERT BONNER.

NEW YORK January 3. 1868.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I take pleasure in stating that, having practiced Mr. Dunbar's system of treating the horses foot, for about two years, I find it to be all that Mr. Dunbar claims for it. He is the only man so far as I know, and I have studied everything upon the subject, who really understands the whole philosophy of the horses foot. In my stable I have not one horse that is unsound; but before I became acquainted with Mr. Dunbar's system I parted with several lame horses that if I had them now I could cure by adopting Mr. Dunbar's treatment. I carry out his system of paring the feet on all the horses that I own; and Dexter's foot is to-day at least half an inch wider at the heels than it was when I purchased him.

ROBERT BONNER.

HOW I OBTAINED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE "DUNBAR" SYSTEM.

As the multitude of persons who have become somewhat acquainted with my treatment of the horse, have invariably asked me from what source I gleaned the knowledge of my system, it may not, therefore, be uninteresting to the public, to herein give a brief sketch of the manner with which it has been obtained.

At the early age of seven years having an inherent love for the horse, an elder brother purchased me a beautiful, fine, symmetrical donkey, bridle, saddle and spurs. After having

become an expert rider without spurs, I attempted to ride my donkey with them; the result was she unhorsed me thirteen times in succession, when with bleeding hands and bruised knees, I had to acknowledge myself conquered; a thing I rarely do.

At the age of eleven we emigrated from Europe and settled in the back-woods of Upper Canada, then, almost a wilderness. Our family being large and industrious, and especially fond of the horse, we were among the first to introduce its use into those back regions, the labor of oxen having been hitherto available. Being the youngest, it fell to my lot to run of errands, as my strength was not sufficient for the heavy labor of clearing the forest. As we were industrious, prosperity followed our efforts, and I was soon the possessor of a beautiful Indian pony mare, as quick as a cat and as finely formed as a thorough bred.

Like the Texan, I nearly lived in the saddle. Our horned cattle increased in number, and it was my business to trace them to their resorts both morning and evening, and bring them up for milking. The pony not having been shod, and traveling so much amongst roots, the wall of her feet would break unevenly, sometimes breaking the crust above the sole, which would cause her to limp, did she happen to step on a root or other hard substance, when coming in contact with the exposed part.

In order to prevent this, I commenced paring the wall, keeping it level, which gave me my first idea of a proper shaped foot, and of the necessity of attending to colt's feet while young.

When scarcely twenty-one, I was alone on the homestead, and in possession of the best, or at least fastest, horses then in the county, of which at this time there was a great number.

About this time my wife's father let me have a well-bred mare, and while riding a journey of about one hundred and sixty miles, I found, in descending the first hill or heavy grade, she was sore or slightly lame. At the first house I came to,

I asked for the loan of a chisel or sharp and strong knife. I could get neither, but perceiving a saw, I asked for, and got the use of it. On examining the feet, I found they were contracted, and out of shape. I studied a few moments, and came to the conclusion, that while sawing through the hoof, it being insensitive, I could not hurt her until I reached the sensitive part. This idea I arrived at from boring with a gimlet through a cow's horn, as it never hurt until the quick was reached ; a mode of practice we had for curing a disease called hollow horn in cattle ; we injected a salt water lotion into the empty or hollow horn, a disease the most prevalent in new countries.

But to my subject. I sawed carefully under the shoe and was surprised how far the saw went in ; several times I took it out and examined the teeth, expecting to find blood or sensitive hoof. On reaching the quick, the mare immediately gave notice by moving, so that I had no further trouble ; but run the saw in, three different places, under the shoe, under each heel of the fore feet. The mare traveled, I fancied at least, some better. At length after traveling some five or six miles, I came to a blacksmith's shop, such as it was ; he had no cutting knife, but a very dull butteris with which he tried to "trim out them cracks," that I had made, as he called them ; they, having become well filled with mud and thoroughly saturated with water, so that he did not suspect the work of the saw on them ; had he done so, the knowledge would have deprived me of his service, as he seemed much unwilling to do anything that I asked him except to trace up "them sing'ler cracks." He had not shortened the toe, though I urged him to do so, for on seeing a slight coloration of blood through the first cut I made, he refused to do any more, declaring he did not care for the trifle he would make by shoeing her, he would not, he said, ruin my horse ; and had I not been considerably civil he would no doubt have left me to go on my way without shoes.

I had not ridden further than three miles when I came to another shop. I had studied all this distance about my under-

taking and resolved to bring the hoof to as natural a shape as possible. He, not knowing what the other blacksmith had done, reduced the length of the hoof a great deal, but like the other, refused to do all I wanted on the same grounds, namely, that I would ruin the horse.

I wonder now how I was so bold then, and reckless of the hoof; perhaps for this reason, that I had never read a page on horse-shoeing; had I done so, I have no doubt I never would have dared venture beyond the prescribed limits.

After returning home, the first thing I did was to get a horse-shoeing or toe-knife and rasp, and went to work myself. The temptation was so strong to use my new implements, that I did not stop until there was but very little hoof left of either sole or frog. I put the mare on pasture—she became very sore; this arose from the clay packing in the commissures, pressing up the then thin and almost bare flesh or sensitive laminæ but I did not then understand what I do now. I had one satisfaction, that if the mare was ruined no person was aware of what I had done,—not even my wife.

I took a look into my father-in-law's "Farrier Book," and there I learned that the expense of my experiment was the ruination of my mare. I borrowed the book, compared theory with my practice; it was evident my work was ruinous; every opportunity that I had, unperceived, I would go to the mare in order to learn what was the bar and the integral parts by their technical names. On each visit I cleaned out the material that had collected in the commissures. To my great astonishment the mare began to improve, slowly for a few days, but what was that, as she was not lame, that is, she did not bob her head, but seemed a little stiff or sore in going down hill; that was before I meddled with her; but after my own paring, she was so crippled that she could scarcely go about to get food. I had pared injudiciously in one sense, in another I had not; for there was not a ravine or crevice of the foot that I did not leave bare of hoof, in my anxiety to discover the cause of malformation in the foot; a mania had

seized me, and I could not stop nor rest, while a particle of hoof remained, either on sole or frog.

Many years afterward, I learned that the great cause of the mare's acute lameness, was, in the packing of the commissures, and pressing of the sensitive sole and frog laminæ against the flex or tendon, on the one side, and the foot being open and expanded, on the other ; the foundation having been destroyed by my paring, the whole structure descended in the hoof, thus disturbing or disarranging the connection of the laminæ and cartilage called dove-tailing. As in chronic cases of contraction, the coffin bone is forced from a half. to three quarters of an inch up out of its original position in the hoof—therefore, this disarrangement of the whole combination, and settling down to its normal and proper place, causing great fever, produced the excessive soreness that so alarmed me.

But more upon this subject of the lamina, and its ramifications, in another place.

The mare improved from day to day, until the hoof expanded, the new bars assumed a different shape, and the form of the foot, was radically changed. I let her run for a month or six weeks, until she became active and playful as a colt. I then took her to have her shod. To my surprise, her hoofs were nearly an inch wider at the heel than the last shoes she had worn. This was a new puzzle to me, for though the mare had evidently improved, the impression remained from my reading, that the treatment was wrong, and I never intended to risk an experiment in opposition to the established theory, as my ambition had not been to make a reputation, but simple curiosity.

I then continued to study this work pretty closely, and became the more convinced, that it was unnecessary for me to meddle with horses' feet. However, on again riding the mare, I found her gait not only improved down hill but on the level ; also that the treatment had doubled her value, and added materially to her years of usefulness.

I had not meddled again, until a circumstance made it necessary for me to take a crippled horse from a debtor who had nothing else to give. His feet were much deformed, and very lame. I was then living in the town of Guelph, and had the opinion of a Veterinary Surgeon, as also of an expert blacksmith. I had him treated by their combined skill, without any promise of success, as he was pronounced incurable by having that fatal disease, called the "Navicular." After testing him by use some time, my old curiosity for experimenting returned, and I treated him almost similarly to the other one. I scarcely expected success. I sent him to the country, and therefore seldom saw him. He too, was very lame from the same cause, and I suppose suffered more from the fact, that there was no one to pick the clay out of his feet. I had him shod. He was greatly improved ; a well-broken, excellent, settled horse. I parted with him the first time I rode him, in exchange for an excellent mare, in which his value was quadrupled to me. I never saw him afterward, but learned through him, that the disease called "Navicular" or what was mistaken for it, was not incurable.

I was then led to question the authority of the only "work" I had ever read on the horse. My faith in the science having been somewhat shaken, I felt more at liberty to think for myself. I then got the foot and leg of a horse, sawed it through the center, from the knee down, learned from that how to tell whether a horse is troubled with what is termed "Navicular disease" or not. The bone being the structure on which the weight rests, and that, being sustained by the tendons, especially the flexor, which is placed under, and sustaining the joints or structure in a similar sense to the leather springs in the old time-worn mail stage.

In working the joints, I found that on an inclined base, for the sole of the hoof that the greater strain was placed on the tendon and joints ; on the contrary in descending, the tendon is partially relaxed and the bones and joints thrown in a straighter and stronger position, so that, if a horse that is pronounced incurable with "Navicular disease," can travel *up*

a hill easier than he can go *down* it, he *has no Navicular disease;* notwithstanding all that may be said, by Professionals to the contrary.

I then bought several lame and sore horses, and on an average more than doubled their value, by this treatment of the feet. I collected several specimens of diseased parts; would purchase a diseased horse, and kill him; (all horses were then cheap,) so that those defective ones were not expensive. I have met with some cases of flat or pumiced feet, where the front part of the coffin-bone has been worn away an inch or more; others where the wing of the coffin-bone was destroyed by pouring acids in what is called the seat of corn, and where a piece was worn out of the coffin-bone, where the clip was pressed too closely.

About this time, I began to devote my attention, as contractor, to building Steam Railways. My first contract being a heavy one, having as much as forty-three feet of cutting, and the engineers knowing me to be inexperienced in this branch of business, fearful that I would bring ruin on myself through my ignorance as contractor, determined to discourage me in time by giving short estimates. Not being aware of their intention, I was driven to my wits' ends in order to meet the demands and expense of providing material. I was thus necessitated to mend up any horses that would get lame, instead of the usual way of disposing of them, as it was an omen of straitened circumstances.

In this way I was led into a business of exchanging with other contractors, as they found they could get more from me for their lame horses, than they could by public sale.

By this means I became more expert in treating the foot. I purchased a mare from a teamster that had been thrown idle for a length of time with her feet. She was beautiful, and in excellent condition. I treated her feet. She improved so much that I moved her from a cart pit to the iron track. I had been ordered to increase my force, which was inconvenient for me, and to add to the misfortune, this

mare had caught her foot fast in the iron, destroying the outer quarter of the hoof. The wall was broken in strips of about three quarters of an inch, as regular as if it had been done so by the cogs of machinery. The foot had been treated and bandaged by my farrier before I was aware of it, and when I questioned him as to when she would be to work, he answered "perhaps in a month;" but his countenance said "never." This was a shock to me, as she was the best looking beast on my work, and as I had just had the order to increase the force, I ordered him to unbind the foot. This he demurred at doing, stating he "would let well enough alone," as he had really carefully bandaged it. After having examined it, I ordered him to cut off the wall where it connected with the frog at the heel, which he almost refused to do. I explained to him that hoof alone, like the human nail, had no healing properties; and when severed from any part could never unite again, and would only continue as an annoyance to the new growth of hoof. He at length cut off the pieces, which were only attached by two strips of lamina similar to tape. He shrugged his shoulders and said "Boss I believe you're right." I had him take off each strip in succession, until the wall was completely severed, from coronet to sole, from the connection with the heel at the frog to about half an inch above the wing of the coffin-bone. The sole was also fractured, and I always wonder how the wing of the coffin-bone escaped. I had the sole stripped off, and then carefully bandaged the part. The mare became easier. This induced me to have a shoe tacked on the good side of the foot, and around the toe, leaving it to project over the injured part, and below the bandage. I ordered the mare to be brought out in the morning, and place her in a cart, allowing her to stand in a cart pit of the shortest run; of course being very lame, in order that she would count one, the engineer being aware that the shortest run of my cart pits, was, practically speaking, my hospital; and in fact none better was ever yet invented, as they stood, while remaining to have the cart filled, on fresh, cool earth, travel on it as the embankment is kept continually fresh by the

droppings from the carts, and the dumping ground is consequently fresh. It was not my intention to keep the mare at work, but she limped along with more ease than we expected and so continued. After a few days she could walk with greater ease, and in two weeks walked and worked well.

A rain storm having set in I had the bandage and shoe removed. The change in the shape of the foot astonished me. The sole which grows the fastest was of sufficient thickness to protect the sensitive part from external injury. On the outside, or where the wall had been, was a thin coating or wall, the laminæ transformed to hoof through which was apparent the grain or color of the flesh, resembling the grain of timber ;—the sole also was of a similar color—the remnant of an old chronic corn. The new side of the hoof was of a different shape, fully a half inch wider than it had been. The bar which in the contracted foot forms an acute angle from what is called the seat of corn, in this new growth, was nearly a right angle. The new growth coming from the coronet was strong with a natural curve ; in fact the whole complex thing proved diametrically opposite to all the teachings of Veterinary science. To this accident may really be attributed the origin of this new system called by my name ; for, from my first experiment, after reading the first Veterinary work, I never dared meddle either with the bar or the frog, notwithstanding the success of my first experience, yet the undue love of antiquity, and the authority of names, had so bound and deterred me from adopting that which my judgment had shown me to be right, that not until this second accident, did I dare venture to raise my hand and voice against the established practice, so ruinous to the horse's foot.

I studied night after night in order to reconcile science, as described by Youatt and others, in connection with the nature and functions of what is termed the bar in the horse's foot. They describe, that the taking away of the bar, is the forerunner or cause of contraction.

In the case above, the bar, the sole, the wall and all, having been gone, the foot became wider. I could only account

for their mistake which would invariably follow, that the cutting out of the bars, with their method of nailing, the horse having only one lame foot and therefore not necessitated to bear his weight upon it, the foot will contract; especially, if through neglect or lack of knowledge, the foot is not kept poulticed, or, at least, moist.

Arriving at this conclusion, I found I had mastered the difficulty, and since that time have only referred to books in order to detect errors in them, to enable me to sustain my system in competition with those who still adhere to the old and authorized method.

A little after this time, I made a business call at Guelph, as my nephew,* desired me to look at a valuable and favorite mare of his, that was lame, with what was supposed to be, "Navicular disease." I prepared her foot, and led her to the shop to be shod; neither having proper tools, and not being very handy myself, the mare's feet, were, in many places, bleeding. The farrier who was an expert, came from Europe, in charge of some thorough bred horses (imported by Sheriff Grange,) a gentleman passionately fond of choice stock, and on seeing the condition the mare's feet were in, looking wisely remarked, "that the man who treated that mare's feet, should be sent seven years to the Penitentiary."

After fitting the shoe, and when he was about to drive the first nail, I stopped him, stating to him in return for his wit, "that the man who made and fitted that shoe, should serve seven years to the shoeing business, before he would be capable of adapting a shoe to such a foot.

We then had a shoe put on at another shop, and the mare at once grew better, and no one was more pleased, apparently, than the rejected Farrier, with the result.

I have rarely failed in anything I have undertaken to cure. The secret of success is in knowing *what* you can cure. One must not undertake to cure everything, as this is beyond the power of man, but in all cases the horse can be helped.

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*Note.—Samuel A. Dunbar, the *only* one whom I have authorized to teach my system, in the United States, and Dominion of Canada.

One more case among the many of which I have made no mention, and a circumstance attending it, decided me to teach.

Through my railway contracts I was continually getting emigrants upon my work through the emigrant agent at Hamilton City.

A young Farrier and blacksmith, a pupil of Prof. Dicks of Scotland, refused to operate, stating that my treatment would ruin the horses, referring to his Professional ability.

The cases were extreme ones. The one contracted and the other a badly pumiced foot. Instead of reasoning with him I gave him a strong dram of brandy, whereupon he flourished his knife and said, " I am ready to cut the foot off now, sir, if you wish it."

After treating the horses, I used to put leather under the shoe at that time, as it made the horse travel easier. I did not understand as I do now, the proper method of adjusting the base of the hoof to the shoe.

Three weeks after the operation, the young Scotchman left, and I had not seen him for some eight or ten years, when in traveling one day near Toronto he offered me a seat, calling me by name. I failed to recognize him, when he reminded me of the circumstance, stating that through the knowledge he then gleaned, as he attentively watched the two horses that he supposed at first had been ruined, until he saw such surprising improvement that he left without giving notice, with the intention of starting business for himself, which he did, and through it had become wealthy. Was a councillor, and on this present journey was acting as Delegate for the town, which success he attributed to the knowledge he had obtained from me. He repeated the pride he had in his professional knowledge before meeting with me and treating my horses, and then declared it was a sin I would have to answer for, did I hide my knowledge from the publlc.

I never had a thought of teaching until then.

LETTER OF HON. R. STOCKETT MATTHEWS.

BALTIMORE March 6. 1871.

For more than two years I have made the "horse's foot" a subject of both thought and study. My library contains the best books on Veterinary matters, and I have read everything on the subject which was accessible to me. But neither my investigations, nor the experience of farriers, nor the skill of Veterinarians, could or did protect me against the lamenesses incident to shoeing and fast driving. I therefore embraced the first opportunity which presented itself of learning from Mr. Dunbar, the principles and modes of practice, in his system of treating the horse's foot.

In a few hours, —for my first interview with him was of some hours duration,—throughout the whole of which, I opposed to him all that I could recall from the teachings and formularies of the recognized authorities. Mr. Dunbar dissipated the errors, and enlightened the superstitions, which I had cherished and used so long and so unavailingly.

With every portion of the foot before us, and indeed with plates from my books, and an admirable foot and leg in *papier mache*, we continued our debates for several evenings, and until I had been taught, not only a new and better way, but a more reasonable and simpler method of preventing contraction and its many causes, and of relieving and curing its worse and more serious results.

I found him a plain, frank man, confident in the philosophical truth of his conclusions, capable of explaining the mysteries of former charlantries, and equal to the treatment of cases pronounced incurable by others. He demonstrated the reliability of his practice upon three of my horses, and has given me so much confidence in the applicability of his valuable method to the worst cases, that I would not hesitate to purchase a horse,—otherwise sound,—crippled by bad feet, and their accompanying evils, and take the risk of making them serviceable and ultimately sound. I must add that, although I have seen a great deal of Mr. Dunbar, he daily discloses to me new matters in the management of horses. To great originality of mind, he adds wonderful acuteness of analysis, and a power of generalization which would have rendered him useful and distinguished in any profession.

R. STOCKETT MATTHEWS.

LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT GENERAL GRANT.

HEAD QUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington D. C., November 23rd, 1866.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR,

SIR:—Explanation of your system of treating the feet of horses, satisfies me, not only that it is the best treatment yet devised,

but that almost all complaints, leading to lameness of the horse, though apparently in the knee, hip, shoulder or elswhere, really exists in the foot. I have had your treatment applied with advantage, to four very valuable horses of mine and have witnessed the effect of your treatment in some of the most valuable horses in the United States. I do not hesitate to recommend your treatment to all persons having a large number of horses, or a few very valuable, as well worthy of their attention.

Yours truly
U. S. GRANT.
Lt. Genl.

My first acquaintance with Messrs Bruce, Editors of the "Turf, Field, and Farm," arose through the following article which appeared in their paper.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR, a gentleman who has given much study to the foot of the horse, and who has studied with profit, has performed many wonderful cures. Mr. Robert Bonner reposes the greatest confidence in him, and always speaks of him in terms of high praise. In order that he may disseminate knowledge in regard to the foot of the horse, and thereby reap some benefit from the knowledge acquired through years of patient investigation, it is proposed that Mr. Dunbar visit Europe. And when he does go he will take with him letters of recommendation from President Grant, Gen. Hatch, Robert Bonner and other well known gentlemen. We trust that Mr. Dunbar will be received with favor in Europe; but before he leaves this country could he not be induced to deliver a series of lectures in order that his own countrymen may profit by his knowledge.

Through the advice of a few friends, I decided not to lecture, when a second article appeared, a copy of which we subjoin.

MR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR has thought over our suggestion of last week and has decided not to lecture in this country until after his return from Europe. At earnest solicitation, however, he will teach his system to a select number of gentlemen. A class is being formed for him in Brooklyn, and we propose that another be formed for him in New York. Mr. Dunbar is a man of great originality. His method of treating the foot of the horse is different from all other known methods. He claims that everything that has been written about the equine foot is wrong, and he will prove his words by actual demonstration. He has imparted his system to Gen. Grant, Mr. Robert Bonner and Mr. Ayres, and all of these gentlemen commend it most highly. The United States Government paid him $25, 000 for his services for one year. He is radical in his views, and yet his treatment is simple, is based

upon common sense. Radical as he is, no man in this country is more strongly endorsed. When he goes across the Atlantic, he will take with him official letters to all the courts of Europe. His system is invaluable to the world, and out of common humanity to the horse, we should like to see it practiced universally.

I objected, however, to teaching classes, except they were gentlemen of my own selection, giving as a reason, that where clubs were formed, there would undoubtedly be some incompetent, unreliable pupil through whom my reputation and useful science, would be injured.

A club had been partially formed in Brooklyn, another in Wilmington, but on becoming acquainted with my opinion, relative to classes generally, they were abandoned, and I concluded to teach in my old quiet way.

Col. S. D. Bruce asked me my views regarding the Rolling Motion Shoe, which after having given, I found coincided with his own. He then requested me to write an article upon it, as he had attempted one, but had received a threatening letter, from Mr. Robert Bonner, who was one of the patrons of the shoe. Mr. Bruce, assured me at that time, that I was the only person who could successfully point out its defects, and that it was my duty to represent it in the right light, to the country and the people, who had confidence in me, since I had so satisfactorily discharged my duties to the United States Government. (See Report of Secretary of War.) He desired me at the same time, to express my views in as guarded a manner as possible, as Mr. Bonner was so rash; which I therefore did in an indirect way, on the several methods, or rather abuses of shoeing under the heading :

THE EVILS OF HORSESHOEING;

OR, DIFFICULTIES OF THE BLACKSMITH.

——:o:——

"Hold on there, Andy, you blockhead!" shouted Mr. A., the owner of a fine horse, to the blacksmith.

"Yes, Sir," was the response.

"Can you never learn anything? Dont touch that hoof on the sides! Open. the heels There, now, that's better.

Shorten the toe ; pare away the frog at the point ; there, further up to the cleft ! That will do ; now see that you expand the foot by nailing on the shoe."

"I wonder what blacksmith's brains are made of," he said to a friend who stood near.

"Will that do Sir ?" asked Andy, having followed expressly the directions given.

"All right ; that's a good job. I did not think you could do it so well, Andy. My horse will be all right now,"

* * * * * * * * *

"Horse a little lame yesterday, neighbour A."

"Worse to-day," was the response. "'Bout used up, all through them d—d blacksmiths ; there's not one of 'em that understands his business, and we have to lose by it."

"See here, John," said owner B. ; "my horse has been lame since you shod him last."

"Well, Sir," said the blacksmith ; "I did just as you told me to do. Your horse has got navicular disease, so says veterinary surgeon P., and you should have had him shod as I wanted you to."

"I've no time to listen to lectures," said Mr. B. angrily. "Nice thing, a man can't get a horse shod without standing by himself to see it done right, or have his horse ruined, no matter how valuable his time."

"Well Sir, I wouldn't shoe a horse o' mine the way you made me shoe him,"said John persistently.

"It's no business of yours if I tell you to cut off the foot ; I pay you for it, don't I ?" said B.

"All right, I'm ready, knife in hand."

"Don't touch that frog," said the owner ; "It's a wedge, intended by Nature to keep the hoof from contracting. Don't take a bit off the sole, nature will take care of herself. Some fools will cut away the frog, forgetting that it supplies the hoof with moisture and other nutrition. Fit the shoe close ; there now."

"Is it all right to suit you ?" inquired the blacksmith.

"Yes John. That's a good job! He'll be all right now; I'll bet my money."

* * * * * * * * *

Speeds him. Can't come to time. Old acquaintance and rival says:

"Your horse is not himself to-day?"

"No! Had him shod a few days ago. He dont do well. D—n these blacksmiths, they've got no brains!"

"Halloa, there, Pat!" says owner C, "my horse has corns. You didn't shoe him right the other day. He goes limping along so that I'm ashamed of him."

"I shod him accorthin' to yer dirictions, Sir," said Pat.

"You did, eh! Well take off that shoe, and see if you can't do a little better this time. Pare out that 'seat of corn; be careful don't touch the bar, that's the strength of the foot. I'd knock a man's brains out that 'ud touch the bar o' my horse's foot."

"I've got all out that I can find," said Pat.

"Pour in this acid now," said C———.

"Be gad, Sir! ye betther not be afther puttin' in that d——d stuff, now! mind ye! Dunbar says ye can no more conthrol its action whin in there, nor ye can conthrol the lavvy in Veshuvious! or the waves of the say! Shure an' he says it desthroys the base o' the wing o' the coffin bone, yer honor, an' spiles yer horse entirely!"

"Never mind, pour in the acid; put in some tow and tar. All right; that's a good job, Pat!"

"Well, begorra!" said Pat to himself, "we'll see him a hoppen back in a few days with sorry a wing but one to his coffin bone! an', be jabers! I'll not be cryin' over it, for ivery devil's son of 'em has his own way entirely; an' the blacksmith's to blame for all! Bad luck to 'em!"

Three days after, the horse not being able to leave the stable, neighbour says: "Horse no better, friend C———?"

"No; I got him shod lately by that boasting Pat Donnelly, who, like all the rest o' the blacksmiths, is a d—d fool! for none of 'em have any brains!"

"Look here, blacksmith," says owner D, "Are you foreman in this establishment?"

"Yes, Sir;" said a man with an air and consequence equal to his avoirdupois of 225 pounds, "I am, Sir!"

"Well, here's my horse; I'm told you can set him right; First tell me how you set a shoe?"

"Well, we set it 'cording to Nature! Our shoe is *good enough* to set any lame horse right! We take away the outer rim of the sole and wall of the hoof, and imbed the shoe therein. We never take off any other portion of the sole or frog. Nature will do her own work, only give her time."

"Well, yes," says the owner, "I've nothing to say, I've tried all sorts; do your best."

* * * * * * * * *

Horse shod "good enough!" put in training—can't make time—horse back to shop.

"Take off them shoes! What's my bill? No long standing accounts here!"

"D——n the blacksmiths!" muttered the owner, leading his horse away.

"Hey, Monsieur!" said Owner E, "my horse Napoleon, iz lame in some tam place! him stifle, or him hip, hock, pastern, coffin joint, or some tam place! I tink him have blood or bone spavin, or curve, or thoroughpin, or ringbone, or ossified cartilages, or some other tam thing! in his tendons, ligaments, muscles, liver, lungs, heart, blood, or von kidney, or sumting; he is not right. I vonts you to put your active shoe on to him vot rools dis vay an' dat vay, an' over an' over, an' only keeps straight when on top of de leetle cobble stone. You put von lively shoe upon him, an' make him right to vonce; for me wants to roll him up some gross hill."

"All right, my shoe will make him as well as he ever was," said the blacksmith.

"Vell me see if your shoe cure my horse Napoleon."

* * * * * * * * *

Tries the horse. No go! Returns with him in great anger to the blacksmith.

" Take off dem tam shoes *too much active!* Me cheval, he roll down hill ; me vant him to roll up hill. Me try everyting ; me give him good chance ; me push, me whip, me call him vid oats, me try everyting. Me shout ' Le Prussian ! ' he make one ' grande' try—he come down. Too much active shoe, too lively ; too much motion. Take off dem ! How much for pay ? I tinks me gets William to put on de old shoe vid no pretensheuns to cure every ting ; me sure now no shoe goot enough to cure my cheval vid one leetle ear-ache. Tam de active shoe ! ' Mauvais,' on de tam blacksmith vot ruined my cheval ! "

Good reader, cannot a moral be drawn from all this ? Every owner of a horse thinks he knows all about the equine foot, when in reality he knows nothing. In the meantime, the laws of Nature are outraged in shoeing, and the horse is forced to bear the weight of human stupidity. We aim to be kind to him, but kill him with mistaken kindness. Clearly we must find a new prophet. We follow the advice of old writers. and are humiliated to discover that these directions outrage common sense. We blame the poor blacksmith, when in reality the blacksmith simply follows instructions. Certainly, it is time that we entered upon a new school of philosophy. There is much to learn and much to unlearn. Mr. Alexander Dunbar, a gentleman of original ideas, is the champion of a new system. He is radical, but his views have been subjected to the severest tests. If we go to him we can be no worse off than we are now, while it is claimed that he can throw a flood of light upon the dark places in which we have been groping, lo ! these many years. As mortals thirsting after knowledge, let us bow and worship the rising star, and then possibly both blacksmith and horse will bless us.

The first, Mr. A. represents one of my pupils, giving directions in accordance with my system ; as much of it, as spectators are every day privileged to see.

Character B. represents the most approved method, or the one in general use.

Mr. C. represents Youatt, more particularly.

Mr. D. shows us the "Good enough" method.

Character E. describes the effect of the Rolling motion shoe.

Neither the Good enough, nor the Rolling motion shoe, have been creditably sustained. The use of the first, has been discontinued in all private shops, and on street railways; except the 3rd and possibly a few others, in connection with my system. The latter the business of which, is now reduced to nearly nothing, has been sustained alone by experiments, outside of the patronage of the moneyed parties, interested in the patent.

In retaliation for the above article, Mr. Bonner, we believe, indited an advertisement for the Rolling motion shoe, after this wise.

ROBERGE'S PATENT HORSE SHOE &c.

NEW YORK, September, 1870.

The undersigned takes this method of informing the public that he has removed his blacksminh Shop to the above number, No. 223 West thirty-second street, where he is now prepared to shoe horses, giving them his personal supervision, with his patent Rolling-motion Shoe. Particular attention paid to horses that are sore, lame, knee-sprung, or in any way cramped in traveling.

When Mr. Bonner's great horse Dexter trotted in 2:21 ¾ to a road wagon, he was shod with my shoe; and when Commodore Vanderbilt's great horse Mountain Boy beat Lady Thorne at Waverly, N. J., he was shod with my shoe; and when Mr. Bonner's great five-year-old Joe Elliot trotted on the Fashion track in 2: 19 1-2, he also had on the Rolling motion.

The undersigned is at liberty to refer to Mr. Bonner and to Mr. Low, No. 20 East Twenty-second street; Mr. Sterritt, Nos. 158 and 160 East Twenty-seventh street; Mr. Isaac Smith and many other private gentlemen. He can also refer to the proprietors of three large livery stables, for whom he has shod and cured lame horses; Mr. Ebbitt, corner of Seventh avenue and Twenty-second street; Mr. Tallman, corner of Broadway and Thirty-eighth street, and Mr. Dixon, in Fifty-eighth street.

DAVID ROBERGE.

Believing that Mr. Bonner had written the advertisement, Col. Bruce with several other gentlemen desired me to write my objections to the Rolling Motion Shoe, a copy of which I here insert.

DUNBARS OBJECTIONS TO THE ROLLING MOTION SHOE.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD and FARM.—In accordance with the request of many friends, I give you my views on what is called the "Rolling Motion Shoe." I do it more freely from the fact of an advertisement which has lately appeared in your paper headed "Roberge's Patent Shoe."

It should be called "Bonner's Shoe," since the best features of it, (if it has any,) were arranged by him through the knowledge he had obtained from me; and if questioned upon the subject he would not, I am sure, acknowledge the shoe as strictly Roberge's conception. In fact, Mr. Bonner stated in a letter, dated July 1, 1869, written me when I was instructing the officers, farriers and blacksmiths of the United States army at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in speaking of the "Rolling Motion Shoe," "I want you to *try* it before you *condemn* it; I think I can do more with it than the inventor can, because the information which I have obtained from you gives me a better knowledge of the foot than the inventor has. I am very much mistaken if it is not the best shoe ever invented. Still I would not give much for it if I had not the knowledge that I obtained from you of the foot."

I wrote Mr. Bonner in reply, immediately upon receipt of his letter, that the "rolling motion shoe" could *not* be good for general purposes. I asked him to have the heel of *his* boot shaped after the French style, and the ball similar, like the old English pattens, and then walk over cobble-stones, loose sand, wet clay or fresh snow.

I will now quote an extract from Roberge's advertisement: "When Mr. Bonner's great horse Dexter trotted in 2 :21 ¾ to a road wagon, he was shod with my shoe ; and when Commodore Vanderbilt's great horse Mountain Boy beat Lady Thorne at Waverly, N. J., he was shod with my shoe ; and when Mr. Bonner's great five-year-old Joe Elliot trotted on Fashion track in 2 : 19½, he also had on the 'rolling motion shoe."

Roberge says : "Mountain Boy beat Lady Thorne with the rolling motion shoe at New Jersey."

A "dead beat" I should say ; so much so, that all her friends and backers were astounded, and winced under the unexpected pressure on their purses. What was his time ? Why does he not give his time ? and what was Lady Thorne's ? Did it compare with her usual trotting record ? Does the Moutain Boy continue to wear these wonderfully speedy shoes ? Was it for the want of, or through the aid of these same rolling active shoes that caused him, throughout the balance of the season, to exhibit the "red flag," or, in other words, bleed at the nose when speeded ?

Joe Elliott made his great feat in 2 : 19 ½ with the rolling, tumbling, motion shoe, the only shoe he ever fell down with while speeding. I never touched Joe Elliott's feet, nor would I, because of that shoe ; but I could straighten him more with one shoeing, in the same way that I did Mr. Ayre's horse, mentioned by him, in a letter lately published in your paper, than they could with their united efforts and their rolling motion shoe, in an age.

I treated Winfield's (Joe Elliot's sire) hind feet, and I have no doubt, his former owner would scarce believe now, that the shoes he had on him when he sold him were ever on his feet, as the shoes he wears now are so much larger, and natural in their shape ; and had the foremost feet of Joe Elliott been treated similarly to the hindmost ones of his sire, and shod with the hand-made shoe, or the Burden manufactured one, Joe Elliot would never have fallen upon the track ; but no piece of iron, in any shape, can restore a malformed foot.

"Mr. Bonner's great horse Dexter," according to Roberge, "made his 2:21 ¾ attached to a road wagon with the rolling motion shoe;" but Dexter made his best record time, of 2 : 17¼ without either the rolling motion shoe, Mr. Bonner or Dunbar's aid; but Dunbar cured him of his lameness, notwithstanding Mr. B. himself, after he came in possession of him, believed, with many other horsemen, that his defect was a natural one, or in horse parlance, "a way of going that he had;" or if not that, he said Doble and others thought it was caused by some defect in his mouth.

I soon corrected that defect by simple treatment of his feet, which widened them greatly—one fore foot and both hind ones—so much so, that many expert horsemen reasoned that he could never trot in 2:40 again, owing to the additional width of foot; yet he now speeds without boots, though before my treatment, he wore them up to his knees,

No man who risks his money, nor a practical trainer, would dare risk his reputation or that of a celebrated horse, on the rolling motion shoe—neither Doble, Burr nor Mace, as well as others.

And whatever time either Dexter or Joe Elliott made with that "tumbling shoe," and that very "light, new road wagon," they can do much more, with a proper shoe, and must necessarily be better horses than their owners either know or believe them to be.

But to my subject. The rolling motion shoe—its only merit, if it has any worth mentioning, is, as an accommodation to a horse, defective in his *extensor tendon*, and that only in so much of the toe of the shoe as can be taken off, so that the horse will have so much less hoof and shoe to come in contact with the road; besides taking away a hitherto deformed and overgrown hoof; so that in bringing it forward, saves the horse from dragging it and stumbling, when the power to lift it is partially destroyed.

It cannot cure him though, as the defect is in the front of the foot, at the coronet, caused by the changed position of

the coffin bone, together with the tightening of the coronet. The shoe, therefore, does not affect the locality of the disease any further than in the dragging process.

There would be as much sense in accrediting a shoe the power of curing the ear-ache, as there is in curing that of a defective "extensor tendon."

Miles runs into the same error. He says in paragraph 23 and page 463, in Frank Forrester's work, called "The Horse of America"—"We all know that horses *go* better and *stumble* less in *old* shoes, than they do in *new* ones, because the toe is worn away."

From this he infers that all horses are stumblers when traveling in new shoes. This is a grave error; for no horse stumbles through having new shoes, except those having defective extensor tendons; and, because of this error, the old shoe, long since rejected, with turned up toe, known as the French shoe, was put in general use, when it should (if used at all) have been put on defective feet only.

Mr. Bonner's fatality in adopting this shoe, arose, through a description I gave him, of a shoe I put on Gen. Meigs' knee-sprung, stumbling, or rather, tumbling pony: as, also, a description of the extra exertion thrown upon the flexor and suspensory tendons, through the change in the position of the structure in the hoof. Those only whom I have taught will understand this.

No horse needs boots if the structure of his foot is in its proper place in the hoof; neither would race-horses break the ligaments that connect the sesamoid bones, and cause what is termed breaking down, or straining of the flexor tendon.

This shoe was arched in the toe, similar to a bridge, and its only merit was in taking so much hoof and iron out of the way of the horse, when bringing the leg forward. After I had cured the parts affected, I dispensed with the shoe. It is a most singular and curious place for a journal, the foundation of a structure. Machinery would not work well on a rolling

motion foundation, or, when the joint of the leg becomes ossified.

I quote an extract from a letter of M. C. Meigs, Quartermaster-General United States Army, relative to this: "The pony is aged, and was much given to stumbling and falling. Since Mr. Dunbar's treatment, his feet are much wider, his knees almost straight, and I have lately ridden beside him for a long distance, at a pretty rapid pace, without discovering any lameness, unsoundness, or disposition to stumble or fall. Mr. Dunbar has wonderful skill." &c.

Gen. Meigs is the most difficult man to please in the army, or the world. I heard an experienced gentleman say of him, in speaking of his honesty, that "he was so straight that there was danger of his falling over the other way, like the Irishman's chimney."

When the joints of the leg become ossified, so that there is no more action in the leg, then it might substitute the other joints by its rolling-like motion. Set a house upon a similar foundation, the walls would crack and it would soon become a ruin; or, had you ever been on the topmast of a packet ship, I mean a sailing four-master, in a heavy sea, with a three-quarter head wind, you would get a better idea of the "rolling motion shoe" than you could, even by walking on cobble-stones, etc. Only remember, in applying the figure of the ship that the body or bulk of the horse is uppermost.

I removed a large callous from Mountain Boy's leg, above the knee, caused by a speedy cut. I also cured him of lameness with my pocket-knife when he was sent from Newburg. I never treated his feet with the aid of a blacksmith, for reasons which I am not at liberty to mention; but I now regret that I did not throw in my mite in aiding the "Commodore" (who treated me well) in developing the speed of his fine horse.

I also treated Pocahontas, when she was sent from the track by Mace, for "hitching," and had I not done so she would be worthless, as a trotter.

Why was not she, too, included among the great horses

so much benefited by the "rolling motion shoe?" why not take credit for her as well as the others ?

I do not believe that there was ever a shoe put on one of Mr. Bonner's horses, strictly in accordance with the conception of the patent, or under the supervision of Roberge.

Roberge, by Mr. Bonner's recommendation, put the "rolling motion shoe" on President Grant's horses. The shoes were taken off within a few days, and replaced with the "Burden" shoe. I was in Louisiana at the time, therefore had nothing to do with the rejection of them. The President is fully competent to judge in this matter,as much so as any man that I have taught my system to.

We look on Roberge's advertisement as a perversion of truth in attributing to the "rolling motion shoe" the credit of increasing the speed of these three celebrated horses.

For, as Mr. Bonner can beat the inventor of the "rolling motion shoe" with his own invention, just so sure could Dexter and Joe Elliott beat any time they have ever made with that "lively" shoe, if their feet are properly treated, their wind commensurate with their strength and agility, and then properly driven.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

CHAPTER IV.

Col. Bruce then requested me to write the following, which appeared Nov. 11, 1870, in the "*Turf, Field and Farm.*"

ALEXANDER DUNBAR v. FRANK FORRESTER.

THE HORSES FOOT OVERHAULED.

I have been requested by the editors of the TURF, FIELD AND FARM, to review such objections to the authorized system of horse-shoeing and treatment of defective or malformed feet, as Henry William Herbert refers to through William Miles, Esq., page 455, headed "Treatise on Horse-shoeing," in the work styled "Frank Forrester's Horse and Horsemanship of the United States, and British Provinces of North America." While we acknowledge there are a few good things written on what is called veterinary science, it would be much better for the horse were all destroyed, than that they should control the judgment of the men of the nineteenth century. The undue love that we have for antiquity and authority prevents us from using our own judgment, and has made blacksmiths to be used as machines by each and every person, groom, &c., owning, training or taking care of a horse, the acknowledged system being defective. Were it good, the blacksmiths would be experts, (as in every other branch of science or mechanism.) Fancy a novice dictating to a professional in a similar point of view! How soon would he be told to mind his own business. Such conduct would not be tolerated by any practical and intelligent operator in remedying defects in the feet. Blacksmiths necessarily know all that the veterinary surgeons do, at least those who have

taken the trouble to study the anatomy of the horse's foot as they do the work under their immediate direction. H. W. Herbert says that the system of shoeing advocated by Wm. Miles in the second paragraph of page 455 of his book is indisputably correct, &c.

In the fifth paragraph he says, I will only add; "I submit this system of shoeing as the best possible, and urge its adoption on all my friends who are also friends of the horse." In opposition to this, I quote the language of a sporting editor in reply. At the time I gave him an inside view of my system, he exclaimed, "How we have been abusing and ruining the horse in our ignorant knowledge toward him. The whole authorized system is a mistake, and it would be well for the horse, at least in late years, when there have been so many able horsemen, had Mr. Miles never taken up the pen to be handed down to the men of the present age by H. W. Herbert through Frank Forrester's work on Horse and Horsemanship, &c., for every feature of it is wrong." We proved the correctness of this when we treated the celebrated trotting horse Brother Jonathan in the presence of Prof. Gamgee, Principal of the Prince Albert Veterinary College, of London, England. After treating the horse, we asked the Professor if he could advise or add any more to our method of treating or "ruining" the horse according to his views, or any other author who has ever written on the subject; and if so, we would carry it out more fully or ruin him completely. My system is diametrically opposite to everything that has been written. The result of my treatment can be ascertained from Mr. John Richards, proprietor of the Belmont Hotel, who owned Brother Jonathan. I likewise operated on Dexter, President Grant's mare, Old Hambletonian, and a host of others. In the seventh paragraph Miles says: "Nailing an iron shoe to a living horse's foot is a very unnatural thing to do." Not nearly so difficult, one would suppose, to understand, though, as the question, "How a man can be born when he is old?" Yet it seems to be as much mystified, though, from the material in the hoof, it should be much easier

to solve. The only difficulty lies in the growth of the hoof, for with the shoe on, the provision made for wear in the naked foot becomes the bugbear in shoeing, and when I pointed out the evils accruing through this change, and the adaptation of the hoof in its growth to the changed position, as it were bending art to nature, the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, in an exclamatory way, cried out, "I am convinced you are the scientific man of the age, for since I have given my unfavorable report, I have studied many veterinary works, and none have detected that which you call the secret of your system." Though in a report to the Secretary of War, only a short time before, he said "that all secret things had no money value in them except to the discoverer, and those that speculated in them." The key to my secret as a preventive, is in the growth of the hoof, and nothing can be more foreign to the growth of the hoof than the method described by Miles, in fitting the shoe to a level surface, as I will, in a short time, more fully explain. In the eighth paragraph, in regard to preparing the foot, Miles says; "The horse is sure to stand quieter on a shod foot than upon a bare one." No person that I have taught will agree with him on that point. By using the knife or rasp on those parts of the hoof with the shoe off, the horse will stand much easier and longer on the bare foot than on a shoe that has remained a month or longer. Tearing off the shoe, Miles says, "splits the crust." On the contrary, it separates the wall from the sole, which is much worse. Miles "shortens the toe, &c., &c. Lower it and pare the toe down nearly even with the sole and then you can get at the dead horn in the corners more easily, &c., &c.; or, in other technical phrases, cut out the seat of corn." I assert that, by such a course, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, you create the very disease you intend to prevent; for you make a mortar of the cavity, especially on the inside, with your long lever of shoe, with only two nails, to grind the gravel and force it into the cavity, bruising and creating the disease called corn; when, instead, if there were no bar, no cavity, there could be no corn, if the shoe was proper-

ly set, neither would there be half as many nails picked up if the commissure were kept open. Miles says: "Be sure you never touch the frog with the knife." Miles says further: "The bars are placed where they are to keep the heels from closing in upon the frog." Rather, bar is an improper name for that part, as its whole tendency is to contract, instead of brace, bar or keep apart. Nature has an inclination to contract or keep the bare foot together. In his wild and natural state, the feet of the horse are fully two-thirds of the time in wet or moisture, either from rain, dew or moisture retained by surplus vegetation, so that the hoof wears easy, and would be too weak or elastic under great strains or exertion, such as stopping suddenly when running, when surprised, &c., leaving an impression as is often seen either in the court-yard or in a clay pasture-field after rain. It acquires this gradual restraining power without the shoe; but with the shoe on, preventing wear and expansion, together with the changed condition in stabling on hard, dry floors, and fever occasioned by labor, the foot must contract, and in doing so the bar becomes curved, pressing against the inner parts of the wings of the coffin bones. It was in that part of the foot that Mr. R. Bonner's Auburn horse was affected. Any practical man can satisfy himself of the truth of my statements by giving attention to the following: After paring the hoof at any place, the nearer you get to the sensitive part the softer the material is, and however soft, after being a short time exposed to the air it becomes harder. This every blacksmith knows. When you pare down the heel or quarter so that the ball is level, and pare out the seat of corn or cavity between the bar and wall, thereby forming a new bar, the material, as I before said, becoming softer the nearer you get to the sensitive part. Leave it exposed to the air for one hour, and you will find the surface has become so hard that the knife will glance off of it. Is there any substance that can get dry and hard without contraction, vegetable or animal? Take the paring of the hoof in your fingers, if thin, and you will find them get dry and hard, immediately contracting and curling

in the degree they are exposed to the air ; or take a piece of the frog, however soft, and shape it in any way you choose, it will become as hard almost as the wall of the hoof, the frog, &c., &c. Miles acknowledges contraction a disease, while Gamgee, Principal of the Prince Albert Veterinary Surgeon's College, London, and who professes, with the aid of his father, to have shouldered the whole responsibility ; McClure, styling himself gold medalist, &c., of Philadelphla,—both of them declare contraction an "imaginary disease, as all internal parts of the foot work in perfect harmony, with change or malformation of the foot." This same idea is carried out by Miles, though not in so direct a form. On page 466, and third paragraph on that page, he says: "You bring in the heels, and let the shoe strictly follow the form of the foot, whatever that form may be." Next paragraph: "—navicular joint, which rests upon the frog." If this is not a mistake in type, it must be gross ignorance, for the navicular rests in no place upon the frog, the flexor tendons occupying the space between them, bracing and sustaining the joint, the frog aiding as an auxiliary, when in good condition, acting as a chair, sofa, lounge or easy restiug place for the lower base of the tendon. On the contrary, when in bad condition, leaving an uneven, and, of course, an uneasy base—four or five of the many defects having their origin in contraction. Notwithstanding all that those great lights have said to the contrary, the two tendons, the suspensory and flexor, act as a parting foundation, the whole structure or bone resting on them, similar to leather springs in a wagon, the base of the suspensor connecting with the top of the cornea bone. The flexor connects at the base of the coffin bone, near the part where the ligaments that connect the navicular with the coffin bone. The flexor, or main-spring passes under the navicular, which is passive, acting similar to the *patela* in the stifle, next sustains the small pastern joint, at the top of the cornea bone, passing over the sesamoid up the leg until it takes the form of muscles, taking the outside of the leg, passing over the *humerus* and under the scapula, along the upper part of the

neck until it connects with the head, &c. This flexor tendon sustains the joint or structure, aided by the suspensory and ligaments, and never requires the aid of the frog and lateral cartilages, except when in extreme action, similar to over-taxed springs, so that the frog is not in a position, from its locality, to bear the weight of the horse, and is seldom reached by the tendon when in good condition. But if the foot is contracted, it is forced up at particular places, (which I will explain at a future time.) This brings it nearer, and affects the tendon, similar to pegs in a boot, or an uneven seat. Paragraph twenty-one, page 463, "Fitting the shoe," means making the shoe fit the foot, and not making the foot fit the shoe, so that if a foot is malformed, Miles' advice is to fit the shoe to the malformation. I take the opposite course, and make a proper shoe, suitable to the class of horse, and bring the foot to the shoe by nailing, as I have done on Dexter's feet. If a handsome and good foot can be malformed by bad treatment, why not change even a naturally bad shaped foot to a good one by similar contra treatment. No difference when you know how. Twenty-second paragraph, page 143; "Look at the old shoe, and see how much of the old shoe is worn away, because just so much of the new shoe should be turned away from the ground, out of the line of wear." What nonsense; apply this to our own shoe. Twenty-third paragraph: "We all know that horses go better and stumble less. etc." Then all horses are stumblers, and not those only, as I supposed, who have the base of the extensor injured by the tightening of the coronet. Twenty-fourth paragraph: "A strong foot * * * but a flat foot is always weak at the toe, and will not bear much." Then why put any bearing on it? Change its position, etc. Twenty-ninth paragraph: "But you may depend upon it, nature has made no mistake about it * * *" You may also depend upon it that there is a much greater burden laid upon nature than she is able to bear. What has nature or chance to do with breeding a horse like Dexter? In nature his sire would likely have been his brother or father. Is

pedigree the result of nature? What has nature to do with a horse bred in a domestic way, or with the lady or gentleman that graces Broadway and resides in Fifth Avenue? Who would look for beauty, merit, or value in the natural horse or in the uncivilized human being? Then what control has nature over pedigree? The system of pedigree is nearly as perfect through education and position in the human race, as it is by arrangement and record in the equine. There is scarcely anything natural left in either the one or the other in this period of time; nature and art are co-laborers. "But I shall prove to you, * * * * in speaking of the evil of the open-heeled shoe. * * * The horse is seldom hurt by stepping on anything when the sole and frog have sufficient material to protect the sensitive parts. Bruises arise more frequently from retaining a foreign substance; stones, glass, pieces of iron, crockery, nails, etc. I don't advocate projecting heels; yet they do less damage than those that hug the frog, as in paragraph 33, page 62: "'let the shoe follow the form of the foot, whatever that form may be.'" Dexter's shoe, in which he made his best record in public, fits now inside the others; with the same shoe he had to be booted on nearly all his legs. He now speeds without any boots, yet with so much wider feet. I will not solve that problem for you now, but may in a little work I intend to write at no distant day. Paragraph 33: "The part of the foot that needs protection from injury more than other is the navicular joint, which rests upon the frog, etc." Perfect nonsense, as the tendons run between, and it is impossible for the navicular to ever get within an inch of the frog, as in its action it moves upward toward the small pastern joint. Paragraph 35: "I have often seen shoes so wide * * *." Then a small stone could not stick in it. The foot suffers no more from stepping on a stone or hard substance, if it is not retained, than Paddy's or a Highlander's, and these can run on thorns or fresh macadamized roads without injury. Paragraph 37: "The chances are very much against these fitting like two planed boards * * *."

Nothing could be more injurious than such a mode of shoeing, neither am I at liberty to explain why, just now.

Paragraph 23 : Wear on the toe of the shoe is caused by the shoe getting off of the ground or road, and not coming in contact with it, as Miles says ; and when it is necessary to rasp away the toe of a new shoe, or to arch the toe as I did the shoe of Gen. Meigs' knee-sprung, stumbling pony, or when this tumbling or rolling motion shoe is useful, that is when the extensor tendon is defective through the coronet being tightened by contraction. Though a shoe cannot cure it, yet it may accommodate the diseased part. Thirty-fourth paragraph, pages 466 and 467 : Miles says, " the part of the foot that needs protection from injury more then any other, is the " navicular joint," which rests upon the frog ; this is absurd, as the flexor tendon lies between the joint and frog, occupying from three-fourths to one inch of space ; for that portion of the frog is of little consequence, the sole being almost closed under it, at that particular part under the navicular bone. Besides, the advice that he gives in connection, is injurious. Page 469, thirty-ninth paragraph, Miles says : " For the crust must bear all round, before you can say that the shoe fits the foot as it ought to do." Awful ! To fit the shoe to the crust, though it be separated from the wall. Page 477, sixty-fifth paragraph, Miles says : " Pare out the foot, but leave the frog alone." Pare out the foot ? how and where ; and leave the frog even if there is a surplus, or if malformed ? Miles says, " nail on with five nails." He could not shoe for me, especially were I traveling in Texas. Miles must know nothing of hogwallows. There is no more danger of driving eight nails than five, when properly driven ; besides, it is nonsense to think the hoof does expand under pressure, when contracted even partially, either with shoes or without them. Sixty-fifth paragraph, Miles says : " Hammer down the clenches without rasping them, and only rasp below them." Why rasp below them, if it makes the hoof brittle ? Page 479, sixty-ninth, paragraph, Miles says : " I think I may consider that I have now proved beyond dispute, that a

fore shoe can be kept on by three nails * * *." Miles had much better have studied law. For could he have proved to his clients beyond dispute that he could make these cases clear, though as critical in their way or as hard to be believed as the story endorsed by his friend, in the sixty-seventh paragraph, and the Prussian hussar with the three nails, his fortune would more speedily have been made.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

CHAPTER V.

THE FOOT OF THE HORSE—DOCTORS DIFFER.

NOVEMBER 18, 1870.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—On reading the TURF, FIELD AND FARM, I could not resist smiling at the remarks of your correspondents in reference to shoeing, and lame horses. It is true we have had hundreds of ridiculous theories propounded to us by professional men, blacksmiths, grooms, and the like. But I am inclined to think your correspondent bears the palm from them all. Of course men who know everything and know that all the rest of mankind are fools, have generally some object in view when they advance one of these wild theories. How often do we see this class of men traveling around the country with some wonderful receipt for taking off spasms, ringbone, &c. Yet, notwithstanding the advice given, and the experience of parties whose valuable animals have been ruined for life, there are always suckers to be picked up who are willing to have their eye-teeth cut at the cost of a few dollars. And strange to say, but not the less true, we invariably find a considerable portion of moneyed men mixed up with these greenies, which has the effect of enticing others to take the hook already set for them, as they cannot think it possible that such influential men as Mr. B. or Mr. C. could be thus imposed upon ; and to make the thing still more plausible, these moneyed greenies are often foolish enough to endorse the actions of these men by offering to bet so and so on their extraordinary abilities.

Your correspondent has made the wonderful discovery

that "he knows it all," that all the writing on veterinary science has been in vain—all, with the exception of your correspondent. The man who cuts the hole in the bottom of the bucket to stop it from leaking, the man who has discovered the new disease—contraction.

What a set of ninnies men must have been to have overlooked this thing so long, and to suppose that contraction was merely an effect, and to be thus instructed by an outsider. Gentlemen of the veterinary profession, I am ashamed of you.

Your correspondent makes some allusion to the navicular disease being the great bugbear of veterinary surgeons. I must give the gentlemen credit for that remark; for he never made use of a truer expression in the whole course of his life. It is the bugbear of the profession, and if your correspondent was enabled to understand the pathology of that disease, he also would think it a bugbear; but until he has thoroughly studied that profession, under the instruction of some good pathologist, he will still remain in ignorance of its importance.

Your correspondent is like a great many other stablemen whose great bugbear is contracted hoof. Now, if he will just consider the matter over in a quiet sensible manner, he will at once discover that he has all along been laboring under a grand mistake, and that instead of putting the horse in front of the cart he has all the time been putting him behind; just the same as he has been fancying that contraction was a disease, while all the time it has been merely a result arising from a diseased condition of the inner structure of the foot.

If your correspondent does not thoroughly understand my meaning, I will endeavor to explain it to him in such a manner that he, in all probability, will. No doubt he has often heard of an imaginary disease called by stablemen sweeny, which is supposed to be a disease, while all the time—in the same manner as contracted hoof—it is not a disease, but is merely an effect produced, as a general thing, by chronic laminitis and navicular throtis; the constant pain from which causes atrophy or wasting of the muscle of the shoulder, arising from sympathy and imperfect action.

Thus it is in all cases of contracted hoof, the inner structure of the foot has suffered from disease for a considerable time ; the consequence is, that all the parts adjacent become to a certain extent atrophied—that is, they become wasted or lessened in bulk, arising from continued pain. Every part of the foot becomes involved, to a greater or lesser extent ; even the nerves themselves are lessened in all severe cases of laminitis or navicular throtis. Next let us ask the question, What is the result of all this wasting ? The answer is—The hoof being firmly attached to the foot by means of a large number of insensible laminæ, which are dove-tailed into the sensible laminæ of the foot, the hoof must naturally adapt itself to the changes which are taking place within the foot. Consequently as the parts become lessened in their capacity, the hoof conforms to that lessening or change of shape, and assumes that contracted appearance on its outer surface.

This then is the top and bottom of your correspondent's great bugbear, contraction, which all the shoes that ever were, or ever will be invented, will never cure—notwithstanding all the wonderful cures represented by your correspondent.

And before closing these short remarks, I would give your correspondent a few words of advice, which he will do well to profit by ; especially will they benefit him when he ever attains to that position that he is enabled to practice it, and that is : "Remove the cause, the effect will cease."

G. W. B.

DUNBAR EXPLAINS HIS POSITION.

DECEMBER 2, 1870.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—Under the heading, "The Foot of the Horse—Doctors Differ," "G. W. B." attacks me personally, together with my friends. Instead of sustaining the points I have assailed in "veterinary science" by sound logic, he occupies nearly a full column of your valuable

paper in pouring invectives against gentlemen, for the only reason that they have endorsed my system ; such epithets as suckers, greenies, monied greenies, &c., &c. Such language applied to the President of United States, Congress, the Military Committee, the Surgeon General, the Quartermaster General, Gen. John Hatch, late of Carlisle, Pa., and other Generals, besides different officers, farriers and blacksmiths connected with the army, that I have taught ; also gentlemen civilians, men of great executive ability, such as Robert Bonner, Esq., Commodore Vanderbilt, Wm. Andrews, Esq., and Mr. Ayers ; also the Presidents, Doctors, and Superintendents of numerous street railroad companies—all men of superior ability in their varied callings, else they could not hold such positions. Yet because they are not of the brotherhood of veterinary science, they must not venture an opinion—not even state what they have seen.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1870.

The following extracts from a report of Brevet Brig. Gen. John P. Hatch, U. S. Cavalry, commanding Carlisle Barracks, Penn., relating to Mr. Alex. Dunbar's system of horse shoeing, addressed to the Quartermaster General, through the Adjutant General of the army, under date of March 31, 1870, are published with the approval of the Secretary of War, for the information of all commanders of military posts and officers of the Quartermaster's Department.

M. C. MEIGS, Quartermaster General,
Brevet Major General, U. S. A.

EXTRACTS.

"I have the honor to report that after more than a year's trial at this depot, of the system of horse shoeing introduced by Alex. Dunbar, it has proved entirely successful."

"At the time of Mr. Dunbar's arrival, the feet of the horses at the depot, were, from bad shoeing, in a most wretched condition. Many of the horses were unsafe, as troop horses, and others unable to do duty required of them."

"At the present time I do not doubt that their feet would compare favorably with those of any kindred horses in the world." * * *

"The treatment—a peculiar method of shoeing, which does not interfere with the use of the horse—yet requires time."

"The average percentage of horses on the sick report, is only one-half of that previous to the introduction of the Dunbar system."

Signed, JOHN P. HATCH, Fourth Cavalry,
Brevet Brigadier General, U. S. A., Commanding.

G. W. B. rants in this way: "First, the man who cuts the hole in the bottom of the bucket to keep it from leaking; second, the man who has discovered the new disease, contraction; third, what a set of ninies men must have been to have overlooked this thing so long, and to be thus instructed by an outsider. * * * Gentlemen of the veterinary profession, I am ashamed of you."

From what source he has learned so much of my system as to assert that I cut the bottom out of the hoof I know not. Both he and his informant, if he had any, are misinformed. No person can be more careful of the foundation of the structure than I am, and I think none set more value on the sole than I do, knowing that it is the only part of the hoof that has the power, and possesses the shape, to resist the encroachment of the wall in its course of contraction. The sole represents an arch in masonry, and the space occupied by the frog, a slight resemblance to the open space or span in a bridge; it might as well be open as to have the frog in it, as to any power it has to resist contraction. Therefore his figure of the bucket is in keeping with his wit.

Second, "The new disease, contraction."

The little that I have written on the subject of horse-shoeing, with the mighty responsibility devolving upon him as the champion of veterinary surgeons, together with the importance of the subject, a subject of so much consequence that millions of the country's wealth is invested in horses, and how much affection is lavished on that class the acknowledged luxury of both ladies and gentlemen—yet my effort is a fraud, followed up for a purpose, and the whole conglomeration has had the wonderful effect of simply causing this great man to smile. Too much powder wasted on a dead duck.

Third, "What a set of ninnies, &c." * * *

He is ashamed of them. Is he not too hard? Perhaps

he has not considered the extent of their ability, and therefore expected too much of them.

After following him struggling through nearly a full column of your paper, pouring out invectives, and trying to be witty, he next exhibits his bad taste by offering his advice.

Poor fellow! he comes at last to the point where he attempts to teach and advise me.

"The hoof," he says "being firmly attached to the foot by means of a large number of 'insensible laminæ' of the foot."

"Insensible. * * How meaningless. There is no such material in the foot.

Again: "Which are dovetailed into the sensible laminæ of the foot."

There is no such thing as dovetailing of laminæ. There is no second laminæ. The cartilages that coat or cover the coffin bone, representing the stocking of the human foot, (a ribbed one, if you please,) this connects with the sensitive laminæ, which is a part of the hoof, and changes to hoof almost immediately on being exposed to air.

How is it that the coffin bone ascends and descends in the hoof? The first in contraction, the second in pumice.

How does this change affect the dovetailing, when the point of the coffin bone, where the objective end of the extensor tendon connects, varies its position between the two extremes (contraction vs. pumice) over an inch? He says: The hoof must naturally adapt itself to the changes which are taking place within the hoof, (or foot as he calls it.) As the parts become, in their capacity, &c. The hoof conforms to that lessening or change of shape, and assumes that contracted appearance on its outer surface.

All perfect nonsense!

What power is there in the foot to draw by the dovetailed attachment. How is it, when the wall is separate from the sole, and the laminæ and cartilages severed? Almost in every case the hoof presses the closest when separation has taken place. It hugs closer without the dovetailing, whenever the wall is separate from or extends below the sole. It

becomes hard in the degree it is exposed to the air, and, of course, in getting dry and hard, must contract, and thus presses against ths sole with much more power than if connected by dovetailing ; for in the degree the hoof has moisture, it expands, whether from external or internal moisture. On the contrary, when it is dry it contracts, forcing the internal parts before it—malforming even the coffin bone by compression—and creating enlargement of the wing, as also causing the cartilages to ossify, by reason of the tightening of the coronet. I cannot explain more fully, for it is not my intention to have the knowledge I have obtained drawn from me in this way. I have only consented to raise objections, and open a channel of thought for others who are no doubt as capable as I am to make progress, were they relieved from the thraldom that has bound them so long.

Are the new boots that create bunions on the human feet so drawn to that grinding, burning process by the shrinking of the foot ? With a new boot go close to the fire, or expose it to the heat of the sun, and how soon this squeezing, burning process commences. On the contrary, go out in rainy or wet weather ; the leather stretches and gives room for the foot, and if kept on until it is properly dried, thereafter has ease in the boot.

If the internal part of the horse's foot draws or shrinks from the hoof, how is it that the cartilages become ossified, and the wings of the coffin bones become enlarged exactly similar to the bunions of the human feet ?

Contraction is a disease, caused by the hoof being kept too dry, and by the erroneous instructions given by authors in the driving of nails, and by their method of dressing the sole, destroying its power to resist the encroachment of the wall.

Contraction is a disease. It causes thrush, scratches, ossified cartilages, enlargement of the wing of the coffin bones, sprung knees, knuckling, and, besides, six or seven defects on the inside coating of the wall, sole and frog. Though

simple, they are erroneously supposed to be what is called navicular disease.

Contraction has little or no power to injure the navicular bone. It is protected on the ends by the wings of the coffin bone, and under by the flexor tendon, and above by the coronal and coffin bone: there is much more danger of coronal and suffragineal joint or small pastern, as there is no third bone participating, like the sesamoids in the long pastern—the navicular in the coffin joint—the base or objective end of the suspensory tendon substituting those bones. It is the weakest and most important joint, and from the severe action and the locality suffers more than any other joint. It is the receptacle of ringbone, and often from this reason. The suffraginal or long pastern bone is so much longer than the coronal, and only supported by that ligament. It is not much wonder that it suffers.

Contraction is a disease, and I can cure it, and in doing so cure all of those other baby defects caused by it, except where ossification has set in, and even in that case I can help it—that is, where there are no joints. Cartilages, or the wings of the coffin bone, I can help very much.

Contraction is a disease, and I can cure it either with shoes or without them. I have no connection with any particular shoe, but prefer the plain hand made, next the Burden manufactured shoe.

I teach none but men of standing or men of ability. I care not what their calling is, so that they have an artistic eye or mechanical genius; the less they profess to know about the foot the less prejudices they have to surmount.

I teach only because I detest the name of horse-doctor, and never shall appropriate it by practicing; besides one operation seldom cures a horse, and no person is better calculated to follow it up than the horse's owner; a groom, also, gives a horse much better attention when he knows his employer is capable of directing him.

He raves again about sweeney, connecting it with chronic

laminitis and navicular throtis. What proof does he give of of its connection with these parts ? A house steward, butcher, or cook, I fear, would smile at him were he to make such a statement relative to beef &c., &c. The flexor tendon, the only one that reaches the navicular bone, does not touch the outside of the scapula, or shoulder-blade. It crosses the humerus bone, passing under the scapula, comes out within about three inches of the crest, following close to the vertebræ of the neck, until it connects with the jaw. But pray in what place does it connect with the laminæ ? Let any person put his hand upon his own shoulder-blade, in the same place that sweeney locates on the horse, and at the same time work his arm, and he will find that the muscles of the arm pass under the scapula, and act in the same way they do in the horse.

Sweeney is a disease just as much as fistula is ; they might be called twins, and, to use a vegetable term, the only difference between them is, the one is a dry rot, while the other is a very wet one. A tree may have decayed branches, while the roots are perfectly sound, and many of the roots may be unsound, while the branches are healthy. Should the horse's leg be amputated, what would be the consequence then ?

I cannot take your correspondent's advice in seeking information from such a source as he has recommended. There would be as much reason in offering me lodging in a lady's thimble, as there is in sending me to a veterinary college to get information on the horse's foot.

The horse's foot is no bugbear to me. I have none ; but the only reply I offer to his wit is, that I am unable to calculate how much larger hat he would require to contain his vanity, than it would take for his head ?

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

P. S.—In an extract quoted from *Land* and *Water*, London, I observe : "Navicular bone, one of the most important in the complicated structure of the horse's foot, is slowly decaying like a rotting tooth. * * * The shoes are

hammered on by the brawny blacksmith. (they are sure to abuse the blacksmith,) and limp as he may, the suffering horse is rattled recklessly over the stones." More nonsense.

A horse in such a state could do nothing; and, if forced to exert himself in such a way, the lubricating material being destroyed, the face of the bone would crush and bruise, if not sever, the tendon, almost as quick as a saw would cut it. A horse with the coffin, cornea, and navicular bones or joint ossified, must as necessarily remain idle in the stable a length of time, as the door must remain stationary that ceases to act through rust in the hinges.

A. D.

AN ANSWER TO G. W. B.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—G. W. B. says: "Your correspondent has been fancying that contraction was a disease, while all the time it has been merely a result arising from a diseased condition of the inner structure of the foot." "It is not a disease, but is merely an effect produced as a general thing, by chronis laminitis and navicular *throtis*." "What is the result of all this wasting?" "Remove the cause and the effect will cease."

If contraction is the result, and the horn of the hoof grows smaller in consequence of the diseased condition of the vascular parts which have become atrophied, I would like very much to know how those parts are to be restored to their natural condition while being compressed by the hard unyielding hoof; and if some means are not resorted to in order to expand the hoof, and relieve the vascular parts from this unnatural pressure, they must always remain in a diseased condition.

If contraction is not a disease, it is most certainly an alteration of the natural structure, and the horse cannot be considered sound while this alteration exists; remove the

contraction and there is hope for restoring the vascular parts to their normal condition.

"Remove the cause and the effect will cease."

How would that operate in case of sprain. Teach that to the Faculty, but not to thinking people.

G. W. B. says, "contraction is caused by a previous disease." Remove the disease, and the hoof would expand without any aid. What a "ninny" a man must be to write such nonsense; he evidently belongs to that class of veterinary surgeons who crossed the ocean armed with a diploma, which was obtained on the express condition that they never countenance any innovations on the teaching of the Faculty, or admit the possibilities of any new discoveries for the treatment of disease, however many we may have in the Mechanic Arts and Sciences.

"The Modern Horse Doctor," by George H. Dodd, page 21, reads: "We live in an age when the little we know of the veterinary art is a mere item of what we should know, &c., &c."

Prof. A. S. Copeman, veterinary surgeon, closes an article on chronic laminitis as follows: "Hence nearly all our thoughts, ideas or conjectures may be as remote from the truth, and an early future show this vague and erroneous, as we now know those of the author of the *Classical Farmer*, published in 1788, to have been."

In conclusion I will say remove the contraction or deformity of the hoof, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, nature will restore the vascular parts to their original and natural condition.

R. B. YOUTT.

G. W. B. ON CONTRACTION.

DECEMBER 9th, 1870.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—It is scarcely requisite that I should make any remarks in answer to your cor-

respondent—who, no doubt, supposed he had annihilated the theory which I laid down in the previous number of the TURF, in reference to contraction, for the reason, that he still keeps harping on that same old idea.

He says: "If contraction is not a disease, it is most certainly an alteration of the natural structure, and the horse cannot be considered sound while this alteration exists; remove the contraction, and there is hope for restoring the vascular parts to their normal condition." Why, any simpleton knows this, but your correspondent has never considered that when the inflammatory action and pain in the feet is subdued, and which was the exciting cause of the atrophy of the parts, that they will again commence to regain their former capacity. And that as this approach to a normal condition proceeds, the expansion of the hoof will take place in like proportion to the inner structure.

He also says: "Remove the contraction, and there is hope for restoring the vascular parts to their normal condition."

Now, he has never considered that by attempting anything so ridiculous, he is but increasing the disease, as it is a well-known fact, that every violation of natural law receives its own punishment in some form or other. And so it is with the contracted hoof, which by a natural law conforms to the altered structure of the foot. But, as I before remarked, remove the cause, the effect will cease. I am inclined to think your correspondent is one of those who get to the feet by way of the shoulder. G. W. B.

DUNBAR SHOOTS TO THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT.

HE OVERHAULS G. W. B. ON CONTRACTION.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—I cannot understand this man. His language seems meaningless. He either mistakes, or willfully and ignorantly addresses his reply to me,

instead of to a gentleman who wrote a very sensible article, sustaining my arguments, and of whom I have no other knowledge, than through his letter that accompanied the article shown me by you.

Who is this "G. W. B.?"—this champion who is so elated with himself that he openly confesses himself ashamed of his brother professors, because they would submit to an outsider thinking too loud, or thinking at all, on what belongs solely to the Veterinary Brotherhood.

In his first paragraph he exhibits as much vanity as he did in his former article. He charges this "gentleman" as "still harping on that same old idea," though he had written but one article. How then does he apply the language, "still harping on that same old idea" to him? We trust this gentleman will reply to the nonsense of "G. W. B." with his former good sense.

I am not in a position to contend. I have neither the time nor the ability to write, as I should like to do; neither can I contend to advantage, as I will not have the knowledge of my system drawn from me in this way.

But while I am willing to throw in my mite toward clearing away the mist of prejudice, and open a new and clear channel for thought, I dislike bitter contention, where invective, sarcasm and stale wit, are made use of, as substitutes for sound logic. Besides, those who know not that I do not practice, must necessarily come to the conclusion, that instead of reasoning through your paper for the sake of information, it is a strife in a business point of view. On this point, I wish particularly to be understood, as I am not a doctor, and have never yet appropriated the title to myself, and having so much patronage since I consented to teach, I shall not have occasion to instruct but a very few more gentlemen at present in this country.

In the second paragraph, he says, quoting the mistaken author: "If contraction is not a disease &c., why any simpleton knows this &c."

J

Here is more than a frank acknowledgment of the author's assertion ; so much so, that he allows no credit to the understanding of the author, as "any simpleton" he says "knows it."

I repeat it, I cannot understand this man. He cannot be classified with either of the above ; since he ridicules the former, and yet is incapable of undertanding what he accredits to the "simpleton."

IS HE LUNY?

Hear him again on the same statement :

In the second paragraph the quotation reads, "Remove the contraction, &c." In the third he quotes the same language exactly. In the second he ackowledges, stating that a "simpleton is competent to judge in the matter." In the third, he says : "By attempting anything so ridiculous, he is but increasing the disease.

In the first paragraph, he says a "simpleton understands that Mr. Youatt is right," while in the fourth paragraph that "any attempt would be ridiculous, and but increase the disease.

Why ? Does he mean to say there is no means of expansion without increasing the disease ? I can unloose the hoof nearly as easily as a man can release his foot from pressure in a tight boot.

He says : "Remove the cause, the effect will cease." All that is in him, scientifically, seems to be condensed in this statement.

He says : "By attempting anything so ridiculous, he is but increasing the disease. Professor Gamgee was of the same opinion, until he witnessed the expansion of the foot by nailing alone, to the extent of one-eight of an inch. I can change a foot to almost any shape. I can compress or expand almost any part, by nailing, to the extent of an eighth of an inch, that is, if the foot is straight or square—mule-like —on either side. I can, by nailing, as I did on Dexter's bad foremost foot, change it even to a better shape than its normal condition.

There is more bungling about "nature, normal condition, natural law," &c., all misapplied and worse understood, so much so, I cannot account for it—which are excuses for ignorance.

The only excuse I can make for so much ignorance, sugar-coated and made palatable, is in the fact that men generally take it for granted that whatever is written, backed by the authority of some respectable author, must not be questioned, or they will be brought to task, as I have been by him, when he cries out "Shame on the veterinary surgeons! to let an outsider discover anything, even if it is good! Yes, rather wipe it out of existence, than that it should be made useful by emanating from any other source than through the Fraternity."

Through this undue respect for antiquity, and the authority of *names*, men generally, without questioning or examining conclusions, endorse opinions as the head of a department signs bills, checks and documents, &c.

Who that has read the New England story of "Norwood," by the Rev. H. W. Beecher, but would be led into the same error as his patron was, when in his editorial notice he declared it to be the "best story ever written by *mortal pen.*

Now, look at it for a moment with the same critical eye that is necessary to detect malformation in a horse's foot, and you will find it much more glaring than the most prominent distortion of the hoof; yet because it is the creation of one of the most eminent, distinguished and popular orators and lecturers of the day, no person, at least of that class who read it solely for the sake of the plot, would ever detect its deformity, any more than "G. W. B." can understand how a contracted hoof can be brought back to its normal condition, without increase of the disease, since the Faculty have not taught him.

It is not advisable, however, to expect too much from certain intellects. The plot or base of the *Norwood Novel*

teaches irreverence in youth, as in the case of the father of the hero of this story ; so much so that if those who read it understood it, it would not occupy a very prominent place in the library of the family. Here a youth, at the age of eighteen, has the audacity and lack of interest in the family generally to offer to purchase his time for the balance of his minority. In doing so he indirectly presumes that his father, being so incompetent, their united effort would not be a success, the father only being a stumbling block, so much so that the son could afford to give three hundred dollars for the balance of his minority, and save more than they could with their united effort. Else his irreverence and selfishness took another course, insomnch that he did not wish to aid in the effort required to raise a large honest family. Thus the story gives the youth the license to question the ability of the parent, makes him restless under restraint, selfish and avaricious, destroying the unity of the family, which is strength, and prematurely creating an individuality which is destructive to an individual, a nation, or a family.

I use this argument as the best application to the case of this "G. W. B." who is continually stumbling through science, under the authority of a diploma, a mere theorist, &c.

A short time ago I accepted an invitation from Mr. Edwin Thorne to visit Thornedale and give him instruction in my system. Thornedale is a place that has benefited this whole country—a homestead of over a century's occupancy by the honorable family whose name it bears—a place that has been the receptacle of many imported animals, and the birthplace of others that have been purchased and exported to some of the best breeders in England ; and as the blood of the celebrated Old Hambletonian has been infused into the trotting stock of this country, so the pure, imported blood has been mixed with the best herds, and of course has greatly benefited them, besides the honor of supplying Europe with American bred stock, which Mr. Thorne so richly deserves. It is the home of both Nicotine and Thornedale

besides a hundred others. The first, a symmetrical and powerful young horse ; the second, the best and most regular gaited horse that I have ever seen ; and if he does not produce the very best of stock, we cannot judge much from appearances. 'Tis true, his head and neck are not as fine as some others on the place, or in the country, but to a practical man his whole fore part will compare favorably with his grand old grandsire, Old Hambletonian.

Mr. Thorne acquiesced in the statement of a gentleman, that there was more veterinary science concentrated in my small valise, than in all the colleges and all the works that have ever been written in connection with the foot.

But to conclude with "G. W. B." In his article intended for me, but really in reply to Mr. Youatt, he concludes in these now familiar words, "remove the cause, the effect will cease."

"Remove the *cause*." What is it? The contraction of the hoof is the cause ; which is exactly the same that causes the human foot when a new boot or tight shoe is worn, to require more room because of the pressure which inflames ; and just as the same boot becomes too small for the foot that it inflamed, so the hoof becomes too small for the inflamed horse's foot. Replace the small shoe upon the human foot by a large and easy one and the inflammation will cease. Give the horse's foot similar room by expansion of the hoof and you produce a similar effect. Is it the *shrinking* of the human foot, or the *pressure* of the new or small boot that causes the inflammation ; and how will you remove the cause unless you expand the boot ?

Did "G. W. B." know how to perform this, as I do, he might continue to repeat the familiar expression : "*Remove* the cause, which is contraction, and the effect which, in its primary state is inflammation, will cease." If the "cause," which is ignorance in "G. W. B." was "removed" the foolish letters which he has been palming off for knowledge of the horse's foot would "cease."

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

THE FIGHT GOES ON—G. W. B TO THE FRONT.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—I stated in my last communication that it was not my intention to make any further replies to your correspondents on the subject of contracted feet. But as one of your correspondents, in last week's edition, *fires so many shots to the right and left*, I concluded to make a short reply to his last and former letter. In the former one he remarks that I attack him personally, together with the friends he has taught, naming a number of superannuated old gentlemen who hold high office, and whom I have no doubt are just about as capable of judging in regard to the diseases affecting the foot of the horse as their eminent teacher. He also feels indignant that I should occupy a column and a half of the TURF, &c. Of course all the space should be kept for the brilliant thoughts which emanate from that immense brain, which, from his remarks, I should suspect of being in atrophied condition, and that the cranium must be in a contracted condition, as seen in the hoof of some horses. He says there is no such thing as sensible or insensible laminæ, but *there is sensitive laminæ*. Poor man ! I am sorry for him; but as he does not understand the correct meaning of the words, I refer him to Dunglison's Medical Dictionary.

He next compares a horse's foot to a man wearing a tight boot. What nonsense ! Then follows all about what he can cure. In fact, a repetition of the very words used any Saturday evening, on the corners of the street, by numerous itinerant venders of wonderful preparations warranted to cure every disease man is heir to. He says he teaches none but men of standing and ability ; and the less they know, &c., the better he likes them. Of the latter I have not the slightest doubt. He detests horse doctors. I have no doubt but he does. All such men do. Sweeney, he says, is a dry rot. How extremely funny it is to read such remarks, when coming from a man supposed to be endowed with an ordinary amount of common

sense. Science he looks upon as a humbug ; education a farce. The Professor of Chemistry could never teach this great man anything. It is natural with him to know it all. Yet he says Nature is a humbug, or something to that purpose. The world holds many such men as he.

Your other correspondent, who was pleased to be extremely complimentary in his remarks, I found harping on the same old idea. Consequently I did not see the necessity of firing two shots, when I could as well hit the mark with one. In your correspondent's last effusion he is said to be shooting to the right and the left. Well, I think he is ; but his shots remind me forcibly of small boys blowing soap and water through an old tobacco pipe, causing large bubbles, filled with air to emerge from the bowl, which as they ascended looked very pretty to the juvenile eye, but as we approached to grasp them, would burst, and forever fade from sight.

He says he cannot understand me. Poor fellow ! I am sorry for that ! But I can assure him that I can thoroughly understand him, although I am afraid he never will understand me. He furthermore remarks that he has neither the time nor the ability to write as he should like to do. I have no doubt of it. There are many in the same predicament. Again, he says that he is afraid the knowledge of his system will be drawn from him. I don't think he need have any fears on that score, as the parties whom he seems most to fear are about to steal his knowledge, are in no way anxious to possess it. While the knowledge he imparts to those(whom he says he likes the best) who the less they know the better he likes them, is of small importance to any one. He says he shall instruct but a few more gentlemen at present in this country. I think he had better do all he can here, as it is extremely improbable he will ever have such an opportunity offered him in any other country. Once again, he is fearfully troubled, because he cannot understand me. He wonders if I am a luny. I cannot exactly reconcile myself with that idea, but I feel pretty well convinced, judging from his remarks, that he is considerable of a "spoony." Another ridicu-

lous remark he makes use of is, " I can unloose the hoof nearly as easily as a man can release his foot from pressure in a tight boot." Did ever a man hear such a pack of foolishness come from the mouth of a sane man.

My attention was once called to a circumstance where a horse was suffering from an attack of that terrible disease, "tetanus," vulgarly termed "lock-jaw." The gentleman in charge of the patient was by trade a worker on horse-shoes, but, like your correspondent, he professed to know it all. The effects of the disease caused the animal's jaws to remain firmly fixed, so that it was impossible for the animal to open his mouth. The knight of the anvil was a firm believer in Dunbar's theory of removing the contraction, and the disease would cease. Consequently, as Dunbar was not present, he concluded to procure an iron crowbar, with which, and the assistance of a couple of chums, he proceeded to remove the contraction by forcing open the animal's jaws, in which he was entirely successful, but the horse forgot to live in order to demonstrate the fact that the way to cure the disease was to remove the contraction. Again he says: "There is more bungling about Nature," etc. I never knew Nature to bungle any of her work. To me her works are always beautiful and not susceptible of being improved upon. But I must acknowledge that many of her works are spoiled by bunglers, who try to repair, but who really increase the difficulty. He also remarks that most people take it for granted that whatever is written, backed by the authority of some author, (or, for instance, some great man he has named,) must not be questioned. Now there he is entirely at fault. Take, for instance that which he himself has written. I, for one do not believe one word of it; why? Because I know it all to be false.

Following this is some reference to a novel by Rev. Mr. Beecher. What do we want to know about Beecher's novels? That which we are talking about is the foot of the horse. The Rev. Beecher, I don't suppose, knows any more about the foot of a horse than does the old gentleman at Washington. He again commences a rigmarole about tight boots on men's

feet, and how ignorant every one is but himself. In conclusion, and trusting that I may not be called upon to give him any further information on this subject, I would advise him to practice that which I laid down as a rule for his guidance. Remove the cause, the effect will cease. And do not follow the theory of the man who removed the cause with a crowbar.

G. W. B.

DUNBAR HAS HIS SAY.

DECEMBER 30th, 1870.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—I regret having occasion to again trouble you by asking you to insert this in reply to G. W. B. His only refrain is: "Remove the cause, the effect will cease." Has he shown how to remove the "cause?" No; has he not rather convinced every man who has read his effort that he has mistaken the "cause" for the "effect?"

How much information have those who read your valuable paper gleaned from G. W. B.'s defense of what he calls my assault upon "science" and "learning?" Take from his letters the abusive and scurrilous epithets applied to those gentlemen holding important positions, both private and public, who understand and have endorsed my system, and how much information is left in them for your readers?

I have said nothing against either science or learning. I have against error in connection with the horse's foot. If error is science, then I have committed the grievous offense. 'Tis true that I have said it would have been better for the horse in this age, (when laymen are so competent,) had there never been anything written on veterinary science, as all that has been said and done in connection with the foot is so erroneous that the good in other branches (of which there is much) is more than counteracted; the feet being of so much

importance and so much more susceptible of disease than any other member of the body ; the feet, with the teeth only, having no accommodation for inflammation when assailed by such disease ; and under such circumstances the contact with the road necessarily increases the labor of the animal, subjecting him to an increase of the evils he has become heir to, through labor and injudicious treatment.

Proof positive of this is in the report of Gen. John Hatch, commander at the Cavalry Barracks, Carlisle, Pa. After more than a year's experience, he remarks that since the introduction of Mr. Dunbar's system, there are but "one-half of the number of horses on the sick list" from any cause.

Who can make a correct estimate of the value of my system to the government ? Of the horses reported sound he says : "They would compare favorably with those of any cavalry horses in this country or in the world." He also says that before the introduction of my system, the condition of the feet was such that they were unsafe for army purposes ; yet at that time they were under the supervision of an European veterinary surgeon, as the army horses were at every post I visited when giving instruction under my contract with the government.

I should be sorry to think that there were no other men belonging to the profession more competent to defend it than G. W. B. He has taken all the responsibility of veterinary science on his shoulders for this continent, like Professor Gamgee and his father have done in England and on the Continent, with the exception of France.

Now, if there are none more capable, is it any great wonder that horse shoers are so bewildered, and submit to be dictated to by every amateur, so unlike in this respect every other trade and profession ? Authority compels them to take instructions from such men as G. W. B., and if they venture an opinion, however good, they are stigmatized as outsiders. and of course punished by being discountenanced, &c., &c., his patronage being given to another person; perhaps a rival.

Behold, how sensitive ! He attributes to a man speaking his own language, " vulgarity," because he does not ape a foreign one. Observe his quotation, " Tetanus," vulgarly called "lockjaw." Is it not better, I ask, for a person to call things by their proper name in his own language, (who has had no classical education,) than to use a word of Latin now and then—a language that few fully understand ? The rebuke is a cover for the ignorance of such men, who shield themselves by mystifying through technical phrases, arguing with invectives, &c., &c., and falling back upon Nature, placing burdens upon her she is not able to bear.

It is not enough that veterinary science describes the anatomy of the foot, and that veterinary surgeons understand it ; there is more in treating the foot when wrong than in being able to name the material, and to understand the nature of the material.

Robert Bonner, Esq., understood all this better than any man I ever met with, when first I made his acquaintance Yet in a letter to the late E. M. Stanton, Esq., ex-secretary of war, he (Mr. B.) said, " I have in my possession every work on the horse's foot that can be procured that I know of, both in this country and Europe, and knew more about the horse's foot before I ever saw Mr. Dunbar than all the veterinary surgeons I ever saw or read of, yet I am free to confess that nine-tenths of all I know, that is, that part the most useful, I have learned from Mr. Dunbar."

Robert Bonner, Esq., has courage enough to acknowledge either a fault or an error when convinced, (though I know it to be uphill work sometimes.) Would that G. W. B. had a little of his stamina.

The shoeing, harnessing and saddling of horses require more attention and skill than they generally get ; more than is required in performing any of the other offices in connection with them. Yet they are the most neglected, almost invariably left between the groom and the blacksmith. And while there are good and intelligent men of both kinds, the majority of them are mere eye servants.

The draft when too high, increases the labor of the hind feet ; when too low, it similarly affects the fore feet ; so that in either case, the feet, with the whole system, become more susceptible of disease. Keep the feet and the draft right, and there will be little or no trouble with the horse, if otherwise properly taken care of. The result of such treatment would be consonant with the report of Gen. Hatch.

Professor Gamgee was much more frank and reasonable than G. W. B. He had a better opportunity, though he saw what G. W. B. has been guessing at. From the letter written in our strife with Gamgee we quote a part of the concluding paragraph.

" There were not over three out of every hundred of my students that were practically useful ; and to those I invariably returned their fees, besides securing to them engagements with agricultural societies."

The worthless ninety-seven nevertheless received certificates or diplomas of competency, and were sent broadcast on the business world. What a deplorable state of things ! If indeed such is veterinary science, with which of the parties is G. W. B. classified ? If among the three per cent. gentlemen, then we must not expect too much from the others.

I really have not the time to give you my views now, as requested, on breaking down in the tendons of a race horse. There should be few occasions for such a calamity. I dont think a horse could break down if his feet were in proper order. ALEX. DUNBAR.

In his reply to Dr. Dunbar, this week, G. W. B. is more facetious than logical. The effort to brush away the certificates of men in high official position by simply calling these men "superannuated old gentlemen," is very lame, to say the least of it. Will G. W. B. please tell us *how* he knows that Dunbar's theory is false ? Has the doctor ever explained his theory to him ? To our personal knowledge, there are many gentlemen of large ability who believe in Dunbar. They have learned the system, and they say it is plain to common sense.

We have no desire to favor either side in this controversy, but would simply remind the gentlemen that wit is not logic ; neither can facts be overthrown by slurring those who testify to the truth.

DUNBAR ON CONTRACTION---HE TALKS GOOD PHILOSOPHY.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—In the article signed "Veterinarian," extracted from the *Western Farmer*, I find that veterinarians differ on that now familiar subject—contraction. "G. W. B." declares it to be but the effect of disease, while he of the *Western Farmer* says :

"Perhaps there is no more prolific source of lameness in the horse than Contraction, which simply means a gradual lessening of the entire hoof, chiefly in the heel, and especially in the fore feet. It is commonly called, by good horsemen, wearing in of the hoof, and pressing unduly upon the sensible lamina of the foot, producing that peculiar lameness which so much puzzles the uninitiated ; being to them an invisible cause. Even the so-called horse doctors are completely puzzled by this disease when looking for cause of lameness. There is no possible criterion for fixing the style of lameness peculiar to contraction, being sometimes very slight, while at other times it is very acute, so much so that the patient is often pronounced foundered."

Mark the words, "and pressing unduly upon the sensible lamina of the foot." The natural inference is that there are two laminæ. This is a mistake ; there is but the sensative lamina. "G. W. B." referred me to some dictionary on the same point, I forget the author's name. "Sensible," I think has a tinge of consciousness about it ; while sensitive means that part of the hoof that has feeling. There is no second lamina in the foot, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary.

Strange as it may appear, that which so puzzles the "so called horse doctors," and veterinariens, is made plain by my system ; so much so that many of my pupils can detect any of the effects of contraction, (so erroneously called the, disease, by "G. W. B.,") almost as easily as if the hoof was transparent.

Last week I instructed George Brown, Esq., of the firm Alex. Brown & Co., of Baltimore ; a gentleman who, when I first called on him, thought he could neither learn nor have time to go to a blacksmith's shop. On the morning after I had given him his first lesson theoretically, I found him, before he had taken his breakfast, after walking through five inches of snow, at the blacksmith shop, where he had superintended the shoeing of three horses as intelligently as I could have done ; besides I believe he could have kept eight blacksmiths working effectually among as many varied defects, all having their origin in the disease, contraction. "Vet." in *Western Farmer*, says : "It is a good plan for horsemen to allow their horses to go barefoot a few days occasionally. By so doing the hoof expands, and so far does good as a preventive."

It is *not* a good plan, and would have a similar effect upon the horse that it has on the human foot when going without shoes after being accustomed to their use ; neither will the foot expand by being bare, if the contraction has become chronic.

The writer adds :

"Its causes are numerous and various, but chiefly, in my opinion, (which is founded upon practical observation) in the shoeing. Sufficient attention is not paid to the nature of the hoof to be shod. A thin shell hoof requires a light shoe. The nails should be small and not too tightly clinched. This last point is very important in all shoeing, yet a horse with a strong, thick hoof may take a much heavier shoe and larger nails, and these may be a little more tightly clinched.

His reference to light shoes and their thin walls, and

heavy shoes and heavy walls, and tight clinching and loose, only puzzles the poor blacksmith the more.

There is more in the proper adjustment of the hoof to the shoe than in anything else. It matters not so much whose make, model or weight of shoe—the principal thing is in aiding Nature to retain her proper form in the hoof. It matters not whether the nails are clinched tight or loose, if the hoof is properly adjusted to the shoe. Nails do more harm to the hoof in taking off the old shoe, through the carelessness or, perhaps, ignorance of the injury done by their being forced through the hoof, tearing and enlarging the holes without properly cutting the clinches, than either by driving or wear, as also by twisting the shoe with the pincers, which separates the wall from the sole. I have never blamed a blacksmith for any thing in connection with shoeing but these two things, because every other wrong he is taught to do by what was *heretofore* considered the best authority.

Had I seen your judicious comment on "G. W. B.'s" last letter, in which you remarked that "wit was not logic; neither can facts be overthrown by slurring those who testify to the truth," I should not have written my last.

I had not received my paper, and had only glanced at a friend's, therefore, had no opportunity of noting your remarks; but having got and perused his article in which there is so much perversion, I feel it a duty to my friends to say a little in reply, in order to more fully clear away the fog of error and prejudice.

Can this man intentionally continue to insult the readers of your valuable paper, by indirectly saying that they are not capable of detecting him in perverting the truth when quoting extracts from my articles?

I will make a few quotations:

"He (Dunbar) detests horse doctors."

I do not "detest horse doctors," neither have I said so, for there are good and true men among them; and I have yet to learn that error is sin. I said I detested the name of horse doctor when applied to myself.

"Science he looks upon as a humbug; education a farce." The first, few men have a greater love for; the second, none feel more sensibly their lack of than I.

But more glaring still is the statement that I consider Nature a humbug.

I neither said so, nor thought of such a thing, but simply hinted that such men as G. W. B., in order to cover their ignorance of the locality of disease, burden nature, bunglingly too, instead of aiding her.

What power has Nature to burst the bond of contraction in a hoof? No more than the tree has to burst an iron band when strongly encircling it.

'Tis true she does it sometimes by a quarter-crack, through over-exertion, when the wings of the coffin-bone are too strong, and refuse to yield to the pressure of the hoof; the wall on the side of the hoof having been separated from the sole, with the shoe resting only on the point of the heel.

When a hoof has become malformed did you ever see it restored by Nature alone? Much oftener do we see some freak of Nature adjusted by Art: crooked human feet, for instance.

The hoof, where it connects with the coronet, is as weak and thin as the edge of a dull knife, and is exactly in shape like the edge or beveled part of a chisel for about one half of an inch from the coronet. The old hoof, being much thicker and stronger at every other part than at the coronet, must necessarily govern the shape of any new growth; nature, thus submitting to contraction, similar to a tree, with a strong iron band encircling it. The result is obvious.

In reply to my statement that I could unloose the hoof, he says, "Did ever man hear such a pack of foolishness come from the mouth of a sane man?" and yet a more singular comparison I never heard than he makes use of in the next paragraph, between a mule's jaw and a horse's foot; each member diseased, the one with lockjaw, the other with contraction. How much sanity would you think a man possessed of, who could draw such a comparison, under such circumstances? The

one, in the last spasms of death, the other in a condition that even G. W. B. should not be alarmed at, for could he not remove the cause by a dose of Nature and the tincture of Time ; consequently the "effect would *cease*."

Again, quoting another extract of mine, he says : "There is more bungling about Nature, &c." "I never knew Nature to bungle any of her work, &c."

Who said she did ? Not I ; and even if I did, has G. W. B. never observed any of her freaks ? I simply hinted that G. W. B. was a bungler, not Nature ; but like all his other perversions, he continues to mistake the cause for effect.

Again, he says—"To me, her works are always beautiful, and not susceptible of being improved upon."

How can he discern the real beauty of Nature when incapable of detecting errors so glaring in a science he professes to understand, and especially while under the intoxicating influence of the "*honors*" he has gained through his achievement in championing science and learning against what he calls "my assault ?"

"Not susceptible of being improved upon ?"

Does he mean to say that natural or wild fruit is better or more beautiful than that of the most select grafting ?

Does he mean to say that the crude block of marble is more beautiful before than after the artist has shaped it in accordance with his conception ? The clay, before being modeled by the artist or potter ?

Contrast the crude with the adjusted and adapted material, and what then of Nature ?

While I do not want to detract in the least from the beauties of Nature, neither to damp the ardor of those who intelligently love and admire her, there are thousands who give too much time and attention expatiating eloquently upon its beauties, who know no more about it really than G. W. B. does of its power in connection with contraction in the horse's foot.

L

If the artist who has cultivated an inert taste fails to present a true expression of Nature through lack of symmetry, shade, and color, then how can a person possessed of no higher ability than G. W. B. be expected to have a true appreciation of art? It would be better for husbands and wives of this class, instead of aping refinement by the culture of flowers, to substitute Irish potatoes. On the latter, perchance, there would likely be sufficient flowers to test their ability in colors; besides, in the potato there would be economy, somewhat lessening the burden on the overtasked husband in his efforts to sustain a family whose ambition had led them to ape the fashions, having had their conceptions with the late Empress of France.

How much of Nature do we find in a circle of twenty miles? Scarcely in anything, either animal or vegetable.

In what else do you find Nature pure and simple! Not in anything other than the sea, the crude rock, the primeval forest, or the canopy of heaven.

We find it not in our horses; pedigree destroys that. How, then, can the foot be natural, especially when foaled in a stable, or field of which the alluvial soil or surface has been destroyed by the plow! Fancy the pulpy hoof making its first impression, shaping the course of the heel, especially in the thoroughbred, thus laying the foundation of what, in after years, causes some of the best and most promising horses to sever sesamoid bones. the real cause of this disease, in horse parlance, called "letting down of the tendons."

When the first impression is made in bearing the weight of the little body, the heels, not having been worn, bend under, thus pressing the heel forward; if on a plank, brick, or any dry floor, road, or, perhaps, hard baked repeatedly-plowed field, instead of the soft, long grass of the plains, pampas, or marshy meadows. In the one, innumerable troubles have their origin, the little hoof becoming dry and hard before a sufficient proportion of the heel is worn away. It then breaks unevenly, similarly to the wear of the human nail when suffered to break off instead of being pared evenly. A colt's foot

bred in this way, should be trimmed at least when two weeks old. I would, and have done it, when possible, before the colt has risen to walk.

The foot of the wild colt makes its first impression on long, wet,or at least moist grass, or vegetable matter of some kind, either old or new, besides covering several inches of alluvial soil, as the little hoof does not become as hard, perhaps, in a week, as the domesticated one does in a day, especially so where great care is taken in properly arranging pedigree, which, of course, is the case where a gentleman attempts to breed from a favorite, and it is through this cause so many are disappointed in their fine-bred colts, where so much has been expected—a prolific source, also of ringbone.

If the foal's hoof has time and material to wear the heel sufficiently low before getting dry and hard, the hoof then remains properly placed *under* the structure of the horse, and not as is the case with the domestic horse ; for scarcely one that has ever broken down, but an investigation of the heels of the shoe would show that, instead of being, as they should be, immediately under and in a line with the suspensory tendon, they are directly under the front of the *metacarpel* or shank-bone, in front of the leg.

I have tried to excuse G. W. B. before, by referring your readers to the novel, "Norwood," written by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, showing as gross blunders in the frame-work of the story, as any of G. W. B., in connection with "Contraction." And why should not G. W. B. make a flourish over his views of the beauties of Nature, as well as *cause* and *effect*, on the same ground that the reverend gentleman's patron does over the natural philosophy, as defined in this New England story. While we cannot believe G. W. B. possessed of a nature susceptible of sufficient refinement to detect real beauty in Nature, no more than he has shown himself capable of detecting the difference between cause and effect in contraction, yet we can only excuse him when such eminent men as the author of "Norwood," make mistakes—for instance : In comparing

the material of his favorite shade tree—the water elm, of New England to the material in the Pilgrim Fathers. No very high compliment to them, as the material in it is unfit for any mechanical purpose, and is worthless as fuel, having none of the qualities that characterized the Pilgrim Fathers, neither that or any of the other species of elm, they being devoid of both strength and elasticity.

And again, in alluding to the feathered tribe in the garden scene, he says that the land or singing bird flies in the night while migrating. This is a mistake, as no land or singing birds fly in the night, except when alarmed, yet his mistakes and blunders in a few things are covered by a distinguished name well merited, generally. And since this is the case, why should "G. W. B." feel so sore over a progressive move in the treatment of *one* member among so many of the horse, though that "move" had its conception with an *outsider*.

I have not the time now to comply with your request to give my views on "color in breeding," but will do so at the earliest opportunity.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

G. W. B. TO DUNBAR.

FEBRUARY 10th. 1871.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—In the former number of the TURF, FIELD AND FARM, Mr. Dunbar makes a feeble effort to sustain himself in reference to the laminæ of the foot of the horse. He goes on to state that the laminæ to be insensible, must necessarily be a continuation of the hoof or wall of the foot. He also states, "that what is supposed to be 'insensible laminæ,' is cartilage. Now as far as these laminæ being composed of cartilage, are concerned, I beg to differ with him. And as regards its not being insensible to pain, there can be no manner of doubt. Also, that its being a continuation of the wall of the foot can readily be dis-

proved. For if it were a part of the hoof or wall—it could not be detached from it—which it most certainly can.

And if it were a sensible structure, it would naturally become decomposed and separated when macerated, as we find to be the case with the other structures. But such is not the case. For after the hoof has been separated from the coffin bone it becomes dry and retains its position.

Yet, notwithstanding this, the lamina CAN be separated from the wall, showing positively that it is NOT a combination of the wall, but is composed of a horny substance which is attached to the wall. An ordinary observer would naturally suppose on examining the hoof that these laminæ or plates were but a continuation of the wall; but careful examination with a powerful glass will at once discover the error, in proof of which I enclose for your inspection a portion of the insensible laminæ which I have detached from the wall of the foot of a horse. The convex surface is that portion which was attachad to the hoof; the concave surface that to which the sensible laminæ were attached. It is composed of a horny substance, and I think is sufficient evidence that Mr. Dunbar's theory will have to fall to the ground. G. W. B.

DUNBAR TO G. W. B.

FEBRUARY 24th, 1871.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—While the tone of G. W. B.'s last letter is much more respectful than his former ones, yet he still continues to pervert the truth, or misquote my statements.

One of G. W. B.'s quotations from my last letter reads thus: "Mr. Dunbar states, that what is supposed to be insensible laminæ, is cartilage." Which should read: "J. B. Coleman mistakes cartilage for what he calls sensible laminæ." Can G. W. B. really mistake "sensible" for "insensible?"

On more than one occasion I have stated that there is but one laminæ ; and that laminæ was the internal of the external part of the hoof—whether it was wall, sole, or frog. Why then continue bringing up a point long since disposed of, as far as my opinion goes ?

Again, he misrepresents my ideas thus : "Now, as far as these laminæ being composed of cartilage are concerned, I beg to differ with him."

I never said that laminæ were composed of cartilage. Cartilage is simply flesh, and though dried, remains flesh. On the contrary, laminæ are hoof of a fleshy nature, but when dried, becomes hoof.

Destroy the nail of the human finger and let the least particle of the laminæ remain, and almost immediately as it becomes exposed to the air, it becomes nail, separating as such from the flesh.

He mixes "sensible" with "insensible" in such a way that I fail to understand him. I wish to be understood as having no knowledge of any other than laminæ that is sensitive, and hoof in degree.

G. W. B. says : "That the lamina being a continuation of the wall, can easily be disproved ; for if it were a part of the hoof or wall, it could not be detached from it, which it most certainly can."

On the contrary, the whole wall of the hoof can be separated or detached, one part from another, as Mr. R. Stockett Mathews, a very able lawyer of Baltimore, a pupil of mine, and one who understands the anatomy of the horse's foot as well as any gentleman I ever met, can testify ; as the wall of a favorite mare of his is split a little, and has been done so by himself.

Any person can upset this old theory by rasping or cutting away the wall until you have nothing left but lamina ; when it soon changes to wall.

Mr. Michael Doyle, a very expert and well-to-do blacksmith of Philadelphia, refused to drive a nail through a part

of the hoof of a horse that I was treating for a pupil of mine —John Sellers, Esq.,—on the ground that there was not room for the nail, and that in attempting to drive it, his reputation would suffer, because I had caused the wall to be cut away. He drove it, though, and in about two weeks afterward, seeing the result upon Mr. Seller's horse, he took all the wall away of a certain part of the hoof of a horse of his own, and some of the laminæ, until there was nothing left but flesh— that is, of the laminæ nature ; such flesh as lies under the shell of the horn of an ox or cow. Such flesh never, when exposed to air, goes through a healing process, but changes its nature to horn, as the laminæ changes to hoof. The laminæ is as much hoof as the outside or enameled part of the wall. The difference in quality is only in the degree of strength, growing weaker as it reaches nearer the sensitive parts.

If G. W. B. will refer to either of the above gentlemen before again committing himself by an exclamation about a reasonable thing, such as : "Did you ever hear such nonsense come from the mouth of a sane man ?" I will tell him something that will appear more difficult for him to believe than anything that I have told him yet.

What if I should say that I can, with the help of Nature, turn laminæ into wall in a week or two, and have it retain the grain, and almost the color it had when laminæ, clearly perceptible through the natural enameling, and of a degree of strength sufficient to hold a nail, without injury to the new sensitive part ?

To do this you have only to rasp or cut away one side, or the whole of the wall, to the laminæ—aye, and even a part of the laminæ, until the blood flows freely, and you will find the laminæ go through the process I have described, and become wall ; and in time, also, become well enameled.

G. W. B., it seems, has reduced his objections down to a unit ; which it is hoped is now fully explained away, as there is no second laminæ, notwithstanding all that has been

said to the contrary : where the hoof connects with the cartilage, the laminæ—which is really sensitive hoof—ceases.

But why does G. W. B. raise this particular objection alone, from my last article ? Why not answer the question direct in plain English, that I put to J. B. Coleman, as to the effect upon the laminæ, in the changed condition of the coffin-bone, with its connections to the malformations of the wall, sole, or frog, together with the raising of the sole, in a commensurate sense, with the growth of the wall from the coronet, as also the changed position of the coffin-bone between the two extremes, contracted feet, and flat, or pumiced ones.

You will not, I think, require from me a piece of lamina, with a microscope to define either its quality, or to determine its location, after this explanation.

Why does G. W. B. hide himself behind these initials ?

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

DUNBAR MAKES HIS POSITION CLEAR.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—My attention has again been called to contraction through a conversation I had to-day with J. B. Coleman, V. S., Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, England, a rare and learned gentlman, lately arrived in this country.

He remarked that he had read my articles and commended them generally ; but was not satisfied on that point relative to the insensible laminæ of the foot.

He still thought there were two laminæ, and mentioned some cases in England where horses' hoofs had been pulled off, thus exposing the dovetailing.

I stated that he mistook *cartilage* for what he called "sensible laminæ."

I asked him to describe the locality of the insensible laminæ.

This he attempted to do by describing the sensitive laminæ. I then remarked that insensible laminæ was devoid of feeling, and must be, therefore, a part of the hoof, and that the sensitive laminæ was the internal of the external part of the hoof, whether it was wall, sole or frog.

He then acknowledged that I was right, practically, but theoretically—here he paused, in the throes of conviction.

I then asked him whether it had ever attracted his attention that the growth of the wall from the coronet disturbed this dove-tailing of the laminæ, since the sole of the hoof must raise simultaneously with the growth of the wall ; or could he account for the conformity of the sole to every change, through deformity or malformation of the hoof and of the laminæ, accommodating itself to the changes of the coffin-bone in its position, through extremely contracted feet, or flat and pumiced ones ; the coffin-bone varying its position fully an inch, through raising in the one, and descending in the other.

I cannot explain this more fully, as it is a part of my system, but leave the matter open for reflection.

The sole of the foot must raise in a commensurate sense with the growth of the wall of the hoof from the coronet, else in an *old* horse, the foot, in following the sole in its descent, would force the wall or coronet, in time, up to the knee or brisket.

By the way, I have treated Vauxhall for "letting down of the tendons." He is now convalescing, and I am almost confident of fully restoring him.

I would expatiate on his great qualities were it not that Mr. Claybaugh gives me an interest in him, if successful.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

CHAPTER VI.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR ON THE FROG OF THE FOOT.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—There would be as much reason in attributing to the basement floor of a house the power of bearing the weight of the structure, as there is in accrediting to the frog of a horse's foot the power so long accorded to it.

1st. It is represented as a wedge, and as such is expected to keep the hoof from contracting.

2d. It is expected to bear the weight of the horse.

3d. It is accredited the power of supplying the other parts of the hoof with both moisture and nutrition. From what source this knowledge has been acquired I know not.

As the basement floor of a house has little or no connection with the foundation, except as a dependent, neither has the frog, in any other sense, with the wall of the hoof.

As the foundation of the house bears the weight of the structure, so the wall of the hoof, aided by the outer rim of the sole, bears the weight of the horse, and is the external foundation of his structure; so that neither the floor in the house nor the frog in the foot, from their position, can bear any portion of either structure. Because the bones of the horse are the frame, on which the weight rests; for the outer rim of the base of the coffin bone is the foundation of the internal part of the frame which rests internally on the inner rim of the sole, where it connects with the wall, and extending no farther back in the hoof than about the middle of the *frog.*

The frog only connects with the wall or foundation at the heel. The remainder, which is practically the whole, unites with the sole, having no connection whatever directly with the bones or structure of the horse, the terminus of the wings of the coffin bone not reaching to within an inch or more of that part of the wall where it connects with the frog.

On the contrary, the coffin bone is arched over the frog to its point, said point the only part that is under the structure ; the rest, the greater part, being under the flexor tendon and lateral cartilages, with the sensitive frog.

The base of the flexor tendon or lower objective end connects with the coffin immediately under the point of the frog, passing over the navicular bone, the latter being passive, similar to the patela in the stifle, though with much less action, sufficient to guard it from concussion, thus protecting it from the danger attributed to it by any other, or even excessive labor, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary heretofore ; because the tendons occupy the space all the way between the three bones forming the coffin joint and the frog. The navicular, from its material and its position—the position being passive—is much less susceptible to injury than either the tendon or the more sensitive frog. The common and generally accepted idea of representing the frog as a wedge, and acting in the foot in the nature of a wedge, is, to be plain, simply ridiculous ; for any person with the least mechanical knowledge will tell you that a wedge must be harder than the substance against which or in which it acts. If the wedge is the softest of the two, it will yield, will be crushed to pieces by the harder body, especially when this harder body is much larger, bulkier, and firmer than the small substance which seeks to rend it asunder. Then as the frog does not and cannot act the part of a wedge in a horse's foot, it has no power to prevent contraction. Neither can it bear the weight of the horse, as from its peculiar construction it has no solid connection with the main structure, flesh being above it, and only slightly joined to the wall at the points of the heel. This being the form and nature of a frog, its mission is simply to

protect the tender parts underneath, and constitute an easy and somewhat springy base for the flexor tendon, when this flexor tendon is in its lively and extreme action. The support of the frog is such that it might, in the violent exertion of the horse, be termed an auxiliary of the flexor tendon. When we make the frog a weight-bearing power of the horse, or allow it to accumulate surplus material, we destroy its springy nature and force it up against the flexor tendon, thus cramping the action of this tendon between the coffin and navicular joint, causing what is called grogginess, stumbling, and the great bugbear of many veterinarians, navicular disease. It also destroys the free, graceful action of the horse. Every time the frog comes in contact with the ground it is raised by the force of contact, and condenses the space that nature has given the machinery to work in. And when the heels contract, the frog is forced against the flexor tendon by the power of contraction. Therefore, the thicker and heavier the frog, the more space it must necessarily occupy in a diseased foot. According to the old idea, "the frog supplies the foot with moisture, and other nutrition." Now, it is a plain principle of philosophy that a thing cannot impart to other members what it does not possess itself. There is no moisture in the frog, no nutrition in it, since it is so slightly connected with the foot as not to draw sustenance in large quantity from the body of the animal. How then can this almost lifeless frog supply the foot with moisture? Truth and reason assert the absurdity of the idea.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

LETTER OF GENERAL GRANT.

WASHINGTON D. C. September 8. 1869.

DR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR:

DEAR SIR:

Learning that you are about visiting Europe for the purpose of introducing your system of treating the horse's foot, I take occasion to say that, before recommending its adoption in the United States service,

I examined it clearly, and became thoroughly satisfied of its great value. Now after a year of trial under your instruction in the Army, I am satisfied that the system taught by you is destined to prove of inestimable value in prolonging the period of usefulness of the horse. I hope to see the knowledge which you possess, on this subject, generally diffused.

Yours &c.
U. S. GRANT.

LETTER OF QUARTER MASTER GEN'L MEIGS.

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON D. C. November 28. 1868.

Mr. Alexander Dunbar has treated the feet of three horses in my stable which I have frequent opportunity to see used, using one of them myself.

I have no doubt that the result of his treatment has been an improvement in the gait of all three, and then a pony also, dangerous to ride, somewhat knee-sprung and given to frequent stumbling and falling.

He superintended the shoeing of this pony, particularly paring out the sole and giving also a thorough treatment of the legs.

I have lately twice ridden along side of this pony for several miles at a pretty rapid pace without detecting any signs of unsoundness or disposition to stumble or fall.

The pony is aged. The other horses were only slightly affected, feet disposed to contraction from long use and stabling without a run at grass; they are easier and surer in their gait.

Mr. Dunbar has skill and knowledge which can be very useful to those owning valuable horses.

M. C. MEIGS.
Qr. Mr. Genl., Brvt. Maj. Genl.

ON THE GROWTH OF THE HOOF.

As the wall grows and descends from the coronet, so the sole must ascend in a corresponding manner, that is, when the hoof has proper care; but if the sole is kept dry, it wears less, being harder, and growing thicker by contraction, forces its way up faster than the wall grows or descends from the coronet, thus forcing the coffin-bone up out of its place, as was the case with Rysdyke's celebrated Old Hambletonian.

The result is, that the internal part is forced up too high ; wherefore, the sole must naturally grow more than double as fast as the wall, for, should you level the base of both sole and wall, including the angle, bar, or seat of corn, the internal part or sole will protrude or press against the shoe by increased growth, and at the angle of the heel or seat of corn as it is called, or the continuation of the wall, forming the angle and inner side of the sole, and outer side of the commissure, erroneously called the bar, stay or strength of the hoof.

This particular angle with its peculiarities of growth, is the cause of nine-tenths of the troubles attributable to lameness, in all parts of the horse.

While the growth of the wall, from the angle of the heel, descends, that part or continuation of the wall, connecting the sole with the frog, best known as the bar, has an upward tendency, as well as the downward growth, which increases its depth so much, when protected by the shoe, that it has heretofore baffled Veterinary Science, and its best efforts through this ignorance, have been the most injurious feature in shoeing.

I cannot, or rather will not, say all that I might, here, on the subject, as it is a very delicate and particular point, in connection with my system, but, while I must continue guarded in what I write, shall, at the same time, give information worth ten times the value of the amount set upon my book.

At the angle or point of the heel, where the wall connects with the frog, the growth must be of a very singular nature, growing rapidly down at the heel, on the wall or outside, while the inside wall, or bar so called, must accompany the sole, as they are combined, and so become a part of the sole, where, in its ascension it raises the frog, as the frog is entirely dependent upon its motion, especially in its upward tendency, the frog being connected to it by a flange of thin, weak material of the froggy substance, hanging from it on both sides, the space over said flange, being the upper part of the

space, between what is called the bar, and the frog, known as the commissure.

Those whom I taught previously to my transaction with the United States Government, know nothing from me direct, relative to the accommodation of the sole to the growth or malformation, of the wall, as I did not myself, then understand it. But all, or any of my pupils, previously to that period, got good value for their money, and as I hold the breaking of their obligation to me worse than perjury direct, I trust there will be no more points given to outsiders.

OPINIONS OF PRACTICAL MEN THROUGH THE PRESS.

Mr. David McCauley, of Washington, is an old pupil and an admirer of Dunbar. He writes to us: "I am a horse-shoer in the Quarter-Master's Department, and warmly advocate Mr. Dunbar's system of shoeing horses. I have proved it beyond a doubt. I am a practical mechanic, and not afraid to apply the system as Mr. Dunbar taught me; nor am I in a hurry to get from under the horse like most of your common blacksmiths. I make it a point to stick until the parts are removed, which cause so much misery to the poor animal. I have shod many unserviceable cripples according to the Dunbar system, and have made sound horses of them." This is good testimony from a practical man. If Dunbar's system was more generally understood and practiced, an end would be put to much unnecessary suffering.

DUNBAR IN THE PRESIDENT'S STABLE.

Washington, D. C., March 1, 1871.

Editors Turf, Field and Farm.—I wish to give you a test of Mr. Dunbar's skill in veterinary science. Mr. D. is

rather fond of sport. He was at the Carnival on the 20th and 21st of last month, and I having occasion to visit the President's stables, found his (the President's) war horse, Cincinnati, undergoing treatment for a very severe wrench of the pastern joint by a professed and experienced veterinary surgeon who practices largely here in our midst. The poor animal was suffering for some days under his charge, with no better result. He did nothing to alleviate the pain or reduce the swelling. Mr. Dunbar arrived and immediately set to and lanced the diseased leg. The next day there was a vast difference, as a large quantity of stuff came out. The President stood by during the operation, and was highly pleased with its success. The following day Mr. Doctor arrived and said the discharge from the leg was joint oil, and his case was doubtful. He immediately procured a liquid to stop the joint oil, but Dunbar ordered that it should not be used, and applied the lance a second time. The horse continued to improve. He is now doing remarkably well, though he bears quite hard on the diseased leg. The above is a very fine horse, and one whose model has been taken for a statue. The doctor as much as said the joint oil coming out would make him unserviceable, and he thought it would be as well to shoot him, as there was no hope of his recovery.

On the horse's foot it is my firm opinion that Mr. Dunbar has not an equal on our American continent. It is all well for men to say that practical knowledge of shoeing will enable them to remove the parts which cause so much misery and pain to the horse. If this be so it is Dunbar's teachings. We, for a long time, were in search of some method that would relieve dumb animals, and always failed until Mr. Dunbar's system was introduced. It would really distress a man to see the many valuable horses that pass over our streets, bobbing their heads ; the principal cause of which is diseased feet.

I remain,

DAVID MCCAULEY.

We wish that some of our owners of racing stables would take the time to talk seriously with Dr. Alexander Dunbar. If we are not mistaken, he is able to instruct them how to prepare and take care of the feet of the horse so as to guard against the very common complaint, breaking down. The doctor claims that the hoof of the running horse can be so shaped by cutting and shoeing, as to keep the most violent strain off the tendons. If this be true it certainly is very important knowledge to racing men. Every year our best horses are forced into retirement by the throwing out of one or more tendons. There must be a cause for this weakness, and it would be wise to go to the bottom of the cause and thus guard against the effect. Dr. Dunbar's knowledge of the equine foot can do no man harm, while we feel confident it will prove of lasting benefit to both master and horse.

HORSE-SHOEING.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 20th, 1871.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—The Dunbar system of horse-shoeing has been the subject of much comment in this city and vicinity for some time past, and the relative merits of his mode of treating the horse's foot has been thoroughly canvassed by the admirers of that noble animal in these parts. Mr. John Kiernan, chief farrier in the United States cavalry service, stationed at St. Louis, while on a visit East, stopped in this city last week for a few days and gave specimens of his skill and handiwork on a number of horses owned here. Some very bad cases of contracted feet were successfully treated.

The system was heartily endorsed by all of our citizens who witnessed the mode of treatment, and so enthusiastic were a number of gentleman who own valuable animals, that an offer was made by responsible persons to furnish and fit up a shop for Mr. Kiernan if he would remain permanently in this city. For over four years Mr. Kiernan has been shoeing

under Mr. Dunbar's system, and worked, the greater part of the time, under his personal supervision, and when the system was adopted by the government, Mr. Kiernan was selected to fill the responsible position of chief farrier.

In Mr. Kiernan the government has secured the services of a skillful and practical horse-shoer. All that have examined the system in this city, and witnessed its working under Mr. Kiernan's skill, heartily endorse all that has been said in regard to it in your valuable paper. DAUPHIN.

DUNBAR AGAINST THE WORLD.

NEW YORK, November, 1870.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—Some four weeks ago I was in want of a cheap horse for farm work. I applied to Mr. Shaw, in charge of the Second Avenue Railroad horses, and among others I was shown a bay mare for $60, so lame from contraction of the near fore foot that I considered her worthless, and told Mr. Shaw so. He made the remark, "I'll Dunbar her, and have more or take less." The 13th of September I saw the mare, shown to me on the stones, as fine as silk and sound as a rush, with price $200. Therefore, I say, "Dunbar against the deck." Success to Dunbar and his theory.

Respectfully.

L. JEWETT.

CHAPTER VII.

MR. BONNER AND PROFESSOR GAMGEE.

NEW YORK, March 12th, 1868.

In the *Daily Star* of Thursday, March 5th, I noticed the following :—

A banquet in honor of Professor John Gamgee, of London, was given at Delmonicos's last evening by the New York College of Veterinary Science. Brief speeches were made by several of the leading members of the College ; toasts were drank, and a jolly good time indulged in by the large and select party of Horse Doctors, who didn't "go home till morning."

The phrase "Veterinary Science," brought to my mind an operation I saw performed (on the day of the night which "they did not go home till morning") on a knee-sprung horse, in the presence of the above Professor Gamgee, and of a conversation, or rather argument which arose between Robert Bonner, Esq., of the New York *Ledger*, and the Professor ; a few gentlemen beside myself being present. The Professor must either be proof against conviction, or have the faculty of making himself happy under every circumstance, more especially when he could do so in the company of the select party of "Horse Doctors !" But I think had the genial party heard a correct report of the result of the above discussion, had they heard all that I did relative to their knowledge, were they as ignorant of the exhilarating influence of the juice of grape and cereals as Mr. Bonner proved them to be of the diseases of the horses' feet, they never could have kept up their hilarity till morning.

But Burns came to their aid by reminding them that the juice would do them good, however much they might be depressed.

'Twould make a man forget his woe,
'Twould brighten all his joy,
'Twould make a widow's heart to sing,
Though the tears were in her eye.

The operation was partly performed with a saw; the operator cutting through till the blood dropped freely. The owner said he never saw such an operation, and would not have permitted it had he not full confidence in Mr. Bonner. The Professor said he never did either, nor ever wanted to see such a one again; I think he changed his mind speedily, as he secured one of the keys taken from the foot. The good result of the operation was perceptible immediately. The operator was chided by his friends for drawing blood; he coolly replied, "does it effect the Professor?" which it evidently did, and stated that a delicate lady could bear to see that much blood drop from a fowl; a horse has much more to spare. "Peerless" lost ten times as much, and never could trot faster than she can to-day. He then said aside to his friends, had I not done so I could never have broken through the non-committal tactics of the Professor, or have gotten a frank confession in the way he committed himself, by saying, when, surprised, that he never saw the like before, nor wanted to see it again; the operator thus gaining a point.

The novel system is preferable, and if as good as reported, the Professor is certainly committed as to its novelty. A concession is worth a few drops of blood. He further said, that what was called veterinary science was not profound, that it consisted principally of a rehearsing of technicalities, and mystifying, instead of an answering of direct questions, leaving a heavier burthen on the blacksmith, and nature, than either or both of them are able or willing to bear. The Professor then, after acknowledging that Mr. Bonner had the largest collection of veterinary works that he had ever heard

of, and was the best read man in veterinaries of both England and this country whom he ever met, said, that the veterinary colleges of England and the United States, in fact, of all countries except France, had retrograded, until stayed by the superior skill of his father and himself. He complimented the officers of the New York College, saying it was a shame they were not better supported, but acknowledged that though their intentions were good, in their practice they were defective. Here the operator remarked that they ought to be equal to the Professor, as they had been in possession of his works for some time, and it was strange if the united ability of the whole faculty was not able to glean from them what is so ably described, and that he himself could carry out the English system without a further word of instruction than what was written ; and if the New York faculty were incapable, the Professor's compliment was wasted ; if they are capable, and have not applied it judiciously, they are culpable and do not deserve sympathy ; but if they are capable, and have applied it, and I believe they have, it shows that it comes far short of satisfying the public.

Mr. Bonner then referred the Professor to his own and his father's works, wherein they state that contraction is an imaginary disease, and that the internal parts of the foot worked in perfect harmony with the changed condition of the hoof. This Mr. Bonner disproved there and then, to the satisfaction of every bystander, as also many similar statements. Mr. B. then made a strong assertion about his own superior knowledge of the foot, and declared he would forfeit $10.000 could he not expand the foot an eighth of an inch without any other pressure than properly nailing, which the Professor contended could not be done.

I understand the Professor challenged Mr. Bonner on his first introduction, to a contest on the feet of fifty horses, declaring that what he did he would do openly before the world ; he would not touch one foot this morning though urgently pressed to do so. Mr. Bonner then showed us his inimitable stud of horses, their feet all in excellent condition. These

horses speak loudest for Mr. Bonner's knowledge, not only of their feet but of the horse generally. Some think it impossible for a man to acquire so much knowledge in so short a time ; the proof is in the fact, that among the oldest horsemen we cannot find the same number of animals in as good condition.

Therefore, for the country's good, for the benefit of the world and the horse's sake, I most solemnly state that Mr. Bonner knows more about the horse's foot than ten thousand such professors. His knowledge is profound and practical ; the Professor is beclouded and superficial.

I am wholly disinterested, but a lover of the horse, and am as much a stranger to Mr. Bonner as I am to Professor Gamgee. The latter, I trust, will come down, if not as easily as I could wish, properly to understand and acknowledge this new system, then let it be by jerks, in Mr. Bonner's own way.

PROGRESSION.

P. S.—The Professor further stated that the Veterinary Colleges were not only ignorant until stayed by his father and himself, but further yet, that not over three out of every hundred of his own students were practically useful, and that he invariably returned such his fees ; yet the other 97 received diplomas of competency. What a deplorable condition this state of things places the world in, in relation to Veterinary Science. Has the metropolis of this great country been fortunate enough to secure one of those 3 per cent. gentlemen ? If so, where is he to be found ?

LETTER OF GEORGE WILKES.

OFFICE WILKES SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.
201, William street.
New York 17th March 1867.

DEAR GENERAL :

Several of the friends of Mr. Dunbar who is now in Washington, in consideration of his secret in relation to the horse's foot, learning that the matter has been referred to you, have solicited an expression from me on the subject.

In compliance with that request, and in concession of what I believe to

be the merits of the matter, I have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Dunbar is the only man I ever saw or heard of, who thoroughly understands the horse's foot. All the professors and authors who have written on the subject are mere theorists, and in my opinion never could have investigated the subject practically. Their systems tend to lame horses; and that is the reason we have so many cripples all over the country.

A few years ago, not more than ten or fifteen, all practical printers, machinists and printing-press manufacturers were of the opinion, that we never could make a printing-press to "throw off" more than three or four thousand copies an hour; but Hoe came along with his rotary machine, and startled all the machinists by demonstrating its capacity to take 20.000 impressions of a given surface within the hour. Dunbar, in my opinion, is just as far ahead of all the Veterinary professors and surgeons as Hoe was of the old machinists, and further too, because the practice of the old veterinary surgeons tends to lame horses, while the old printing men were right as far as they went, only they were slow.

I am impressed with the belief that the government ought to purchase the right to use the system at once, and they would purchase it, if they knew half as much of its advantages as two or three of our most experienced horsemen in this city.

Very Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE WILKES.

U. S. GRANT, Lt. Genl.

FROM WILKES SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.

MR. DUNBAR'S SYSTEM OF TREATING THE HORSE'S FOOT.

We have recently received a number of letters from various parts of the country requesting us to give a full description of Mr. Dunbar's method of treating the horse's foot so as to prevent and to cure almost all cases of lameness arising therein. It is not possible for us to do as we have been requested, for several cogent reasons. First, we are not sufficiently informed as to the system to be able to describe it. We have seen Mr. Dunbar operate upon very bad chronic cases of contraction with capital effect: but we are unable to say exactly upon what principle his novel and very thorough method

proceeds. That it relieves horses when applied with skill and understanding, we know; and that is about all that we do know. To infer that we can describe it, after having witnessed one or two operations, is to suppose that the treatment is to be in every case alike. This is a grave error. The operation which will relieve lameness in one sort of hoof, would aggravate it in another. The principles established by Mr. Dunbar's success embrace some new truths of very great importance, and brush away certain antiquated errors that have, in their time, caused an immense amount of mischief. Nobody understands the system in its full scope but Mr. Dunbar himself, and therefore nobody but he can describe it. For him to do so thoroughly would require a large volume, and then very few would trust a man, who had no other knowledge of it than that which might be derived from reading the book, to perform the necessary operation on the feet of a valuable horse suffering from lameness. Mr. Dunbar can teach the proper application of his method by practical operations. General Grant, Mr. Bonner, General Meigs, Mr. Welch, and many other excellent horsemen have been taught the primary principles of the system by seeing Mr. Dunbar operate upon and speedily relieve lame horses. So far as we are informed, the more he has operated the more calls there have been upon him. He is not, however, in public practice, and does not propose to offer his services to the public at large. We cannot describe the system, nor do we feel at liberty to give our notions of the operations we have witnessed, but we can testify to the immediate and salutary effect. The latest case within our knowledge was as follows: A few days ago, at our instance, Mr. Dunbar went to see a high-bred and valuable trotting mare. She belongs to an eminent gentleman of this city, one in the foremost ranks of those who conduct the vast and gainful operations of our foreign commerce. He is a man remarkable for clear understanding and strong sense. The mare had been suffering for a long time from chronic lameness. Her agony had been such that he almost made up his mind to have her killed, in order to put her out of pain. In less than two minutes Mr. Dunbar had made his examination of her feet and legs, and pronounced the

fiat—"I can cure her!" He operated there and then upon her feet all round, and before we left the estate, at nightfall, the mare had walked off after her groom to the home paddock. She is not now lame at all, and the case was treated this way. It was very much like that of Hambletonian, and the relief afforded was as prompt. Nothing could exceed the surprise and delight of her owner. In our opinion, Mr. Dunbar's discovery and his perfected method will work a complete revolution in the treatment of the horse's foot. To the governments of the Great Powers which employ many horses, it would, we think, be of incalculable value. It would be a very short-sighted and foolish policy for us to forego the benefit of it, and, ignoring the truths now discovered, keep on with the old pottering systems, which are either of no use at all, or positively mischievous. As Mr. Dunbar has spent years of patient investigation and experiment in this matter, he cannot be expected to throw it open to the world without remuneration. That he will ever get anything like what it is worth we do not believe, for we are of opinion that any great country could save a million of money by its general application, in five years. But of two things we are convinced: First, he ought to get something; second, the benefits of his discoveries ought to be secured for the people of this country.

CHAPTER VIII.

ON DEXTER.

It may be inferred from the following, that I have enhanced the value of horses through my system, perhaps more than Mr Bonner, since Dexter was purchased by my advice, and as Fawsett, his former owner offered $50,000 last season for him, besides which, he was to have $1000 commission, the horse being for a Mr. Smith ; (this he told me himself, in presence of Mr. Claybaugh, of Baltimore, owner of Moses and Aaron, as also of Vauxhall.)

Now, if Dexter at that time was worth $60,000 to Smith, how much was he worth to his owner.

At $60,000, there would have been a clear profit to Mr. Bonner of 27,000, and could we calculate how much less Mr. Bonner would have given for him, had he been ignorant of my system, we would then know the exact gain ; (for he stated in a letter to Edwin M. Stanton, late Secretary of War, that he had parted with horses for lameness, at a nominal price, which he could have had cured, as they were not so lame as Dexter, when he bought him ; so, that, the knowledge of my system has added directly to the value of Dexter, in dollars and cents, more than thirty thousand dollars ; besides, in an advertising point of view for the New York *Ledger*, no person could calculate his value.

In many places where I have been introduced as Mr. Bonner's friend he was not known except through Dexter. I will relate one instance : While at the country residence of Mr. Trumbull Smith of New York City, I met a lady a neigh-

bor, whose family owned and were very fond of the horse, choice cattle, deer, and poultry, of every kind. When introduced to her as Mr. Bonner's friend she said ; "I do not know him." Mr. Smith remarked interrogatively "Do you not know Mr Bonner, of New York?" "No Sir?" She replied. "Not he, of the New York Ledger?" "No," she persisted. "Can it be possible you do not know Mr. Bonner, the owner of Dexter?" "Oh yes! Oh yes!" she exclaimed, "I know him very well ; How I love that horse although I have never seen him."

Mr. Bonner would have bought Dexter at two different periods before, which would have deprived him of the honors he had since earned by increasing his public time.

If then, as I claim, I have added $27,000 directly to the value of Dexter, in Mr. Smith's estimation, how much would the aggregate be, could the indirect value be added, together with the extra amount set on him in his owners estimation, so much so that his attachment to him has not yet been severed by any amount of money. I have heard him say that he would not take $100,000 in gold for him.

Pocahontas was sent from the track by Mace, lame in the hind leg, or as they called it hitching ; and had I not treated her, she never would have trotted again, since which he has been offered $50,000 for her.

I treated her in the night. "Andy" well remembers the circumstance. It was midnight when we completed the job. I therefore assert that while Mr. Bonner paid the money for his horses, it was through the confidence inspired by the knowledge of my system which caused him to fill his stables with such horses as he now owns. Would he have dared to purchase such horses, as Joe Elliott or his sire, had it not been for the knowledge I imparted to him.

Auburn he considered worth more money than Dexter, when in Hiram Woodruff's hands, yet he would hardly have sold for five hundred dollars at the time I first saw him, on account of lameness. When I first saw Mr. Robert Bonner,

he told me that the thing that came nearest his heart of all things above ground, next to his own family, was the condition of Auburn's feet. At the time Mr. Bonner said that there was nothing above ground lay so near his heart, except his family, as Auburn, he had become discouraged buying fast horses, and said he had regretted buying them, as it made a slave of him ; besides, he could not keep them right. This accords with his statement to Mr. Dana, of the New York *Sun*, and others, that he never would have bought Dexter had it not been for me.

His feet were then flat, but not yet pumiced, the wall separate from the sole on the sides, hoof light color and brittle, the bar having become curved, and pressed against the inner side of the wing of the coffin bone ; the horse heavy and terrific in his stride ; it became very difficult to treat him while in use. I was so successful in the treatment, that the late Hiram Woodruff said of his speed, while training him, that he "never had driven a trotting horse before," although Dexter had been styled the "King of Trotters" through this man's agency in training him. Who can define the difference in the speed of these horses? Notwithstanding Dexter's great speed was then superior to any horse on record, yet when compared with Auburn, in the estimation of Woodruff, he did not deserve the name of a trotter. With the reputation that Dexter has since made, many would say that Woodruff must have been mistaken. This cannot be, for Mr. Bonner remarked on this same subject, that he "would believe Hiram Woodruff's word sooner than any minister of the Gospel that ever preached from a pulpit."

Now, if Auburn was good value for the amount paid for him, sore in his fore-feet, and at that time no prospect of remedying them until his owner met with me, what must he have been worth at the time Hiram Woodruff made his statement, when a second would have been worth thousands of dollars. Yet this great horse lost his life when ten cents worth of one ingredient would have saved him. How necessary it is that gentlemen should glean all the knowledge they possibly can,

especially those who invest so much money and a large proportion of affection, in valuable horses.

I first saw Dexter on the day Mr. George Alley sold him. He was then lame. I told Mr. Bonner so, with whom I went to the Long Island or Fashion Track to see him trot against Ethan Allen. Mr. Bonner said that he was not lame, but that it was "a way of going that he had." We came closer to him, and his hoofs being white, the color caused by inflammation was clearly perceptible in the hoof of the fore-foot, opposite the wings of the coffin-bone. Mr. Bonner then asked me if he should purchase him. I said "No!" for if he was at the height of his speed, that he could be bought for much less, as his feet would become more defective. Mr. Bonner then expressed a desire to introduce me to Hiram Woodruff, to which I objected. He then asked me to come within hearing distance, as he wished to ask Hiram a few questions; to whom he said, in his own peculiar way, "Hiram, dont you think Dexter has a little more of that 'way of going' to-day than he usually has?" Hiram responded, "Yes, I had hard work to keep him up in this last heat, and never could, had he not been such a gamey little fellow, and if I am successful in winning this race I shall never drive him again. He won the race that day.

In both assertions Hiram was right, as he was sold that day by Mr. Alley, and I believe Hiram never drove him again. Mr. Alley offered him to Mr. Bonner, reminding him of some previous conditional proposal, to which Mr. Bonner remarked that his offer held good when he could fulfill the conditions; and had it not been for the statement of Woodruff, and my advice, Mr. Bonner would probably have become the owner of Dexter on that day, which would have deprived him of his well-merited renown, at least that part of it which he has since earned (as private time is not recorded) since Lady Thorne and Goldsmith Maid, as well as others, have equaled the time, since, that he had made at that period.

Dexter, when Mr. Bonner bought him, had not one good foot. His best fore-foot had the wall separate from the sole

on the sides and front, giving it the appearance of a very flat pumiced one ; it being wired in or contracted at the heels, reaching as far forward as the point of the cleft of the frog, about opposite the wings of the coffin-bone. This binding or contraction saved the whole foot from becoming entirely pumiced. The other fore-foot was very badly contracted, the coffin-bone having been raised fully three-quarters of an inch in the hoof, and pressed forward in the hoof half an inch farther than it should be, through the tightening of the coronet contraction of the wall, thereby destroying the action of the coffin-bone. The position in the coffin-bone varying in the two hoofs fully an inch at the points of the coffin-bone, where the extensor tendon connects. Both hind-feet were badly contracted and crooked, each leaning the same way, similar to a child's boot, the one leaning in and the other leaning out. These I both straightened and expanded.

Mr. Robert Bonner has told a reporter that "he would never have bought Dexter, but for Mr. Alexander Dunbar, who taught him how to get a horse's feet in sound condition."

"Alexander Dunbar, a gentleman well-known in this city, (Washington) and a benefactor to his race as well as to the equine species, has been the recipient of a compliment from no less a noted turfman than Robert Bonner, Esq., of New York, and the owner of the world-renowned "King of the Trotting Turf," Dexter. It was well-known to turfites that when the famed Dexter first made his mark as a trotter, and before he came into the possession of Mr. Bonner, his feet were not in good condition, and that gentleman recently made the remark that he never would have owned him had it not been for the secret of caring for his feet imparted to him by Mr. Alexander Dunbar, and now the pedal extremities of Dexter are as sound as a dollar, as his lightning speed the other day fully testifies. All credit to Dunbar, who has made the hoof of the horse a study for years, and thus by his

scientific knowledge, hands down his name to posterity as one of the benefactors of mankind."—*Sunday Herald, Washington, September*, 1870.

LETTER FROM ROBERT BONNER.

LEDGER OFFICE, 90 BEEKMAN STREET.
New York, May 13, 1867.

MR. DUNBAR:

DEAR SIR:—Since I saw you I have imported quite a number of works on the Horse; among others "Our Domestic Animals," by Prof. John Gamgee, for many years Principal of the New Veterinary College, at Edinburgh, Scotland, and during the past two years, Principal of the Albert Veterinary College, London. From such high authority I expected to get something new on the foot; but you can well imagine my disappointment when I tell you that, notwithstanding his work is spread out over four volumes, and he claims to have mastered the subject of shoeing, &c., &c., yet he is, although a very intelligent man, as ignorant of the proper treatment of diseased feet as one of our ordinary blacksmiths. My advice to you is to go at once to the other side of the big pond and make Prof. Gamgee's acquaintance. You can, I know, in half an hour convince him that while he knows all about the anatomy of the foot, yet, that he is as ignorant as the unborn child of the way in which it can be restored to its natural elasticity and usefulness.

Dr. Carson, of Coleraine, Ireland, has written some very good articles in the EDINBURGH VETERINARY REVIEW, on the horse's foot. He is not so high an authority as Prof. Gamgee, yet he knows a vast deal more than the great Professor. Sometimes he makes me almost think that he has had some lessons from you, but when I proceed a little further, I find that he gets off the track. My advice to you, therefore, is, to England.

Yours truly,

ROBERT BONNER.

LETTER FROM MAJOR GENERAL CUSTER.

HEADQUARTERS 7TH U. S. CAVALRY,
DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.
In the Field, near Fort Hays, Kansas, June 3, 1869.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:

Although you have asked for no expression of opinion from me regarding the merits of your method of treatment of the horse's

hoof, I have deemed it but just, after attending your course of instruction to the officers of this command, to express to you my unqualified approval of, and admiration for, what seems to me, the only true method of treating that most important, and I might add, hitherto, the most neglected member of the horse, the hoof. Although your method is directly at variance with the teachings of all prominent writers upon the horse, I do not hesitate to say that, in my opinion, you are right, and they are wrong.

I believe that the imparting of your discovery to the officers of the army, and its adoption by them, will be the means of saving to the government hundreds of thousands of dollars, besides materially promoting the comfort of both horse and rider.

Truly Yours,

Brevt. Major Gen'l G. A. CUSTER, U. S. A.

DR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

LETTER FROM MAJOR GENERAL MEIGS.

QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C. Sept. 11th, 1869.

Mr. Alexander Dunbar completed, on the 24th of August, 1869, a year's service in teaching in the U. S. Army his mode of treating the horse's foot, under an agreement made with him by the Secretary of War.

A Joint Resolution of Congress directed the Secretary to make such an agreement with him. I have seen a number of letters from those who have received instruction from him, testifying to their conviction, that he has uncommon skill, and that his system, which seems to be directly the reverse of the teachings of Youatt and other writers and experts, is really more advantageous than theirs. He appears to use freely the knife and saw to remove from the sole and heels, horn, which they carefully preserve.

He treated a pony in my stable, aged, tender in the feet, and sprung in the knees. This horse wore after his treatment, a much wider shoe than before, and while he remained under my observation, seemed much less liable to stumble than before. I think that other horses upon which he operated under my observation were benefited by his treatment.

M. C. MEIGS, Quarter-master Gen'l.

Brevt. Major Gen'l., U. S. A.

LETTER FROM A. WELCH.

CHESTNUT HILL, PA., June 18th, 1867.

DEAR SIR:—Mr. Dunbar has operated on several horses of mine, and I take pleasure in stating that I consider his method of treating the horse's foot worth as much as he asks for it from the government. I would not take $5,000 (five thousand dollars) for what he has done for one horse of mine, and I know that every one who has been made acquainted with his system is delighted with it.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

A. WELCH.

HON. E. M. STANTON.

Washington, Ills Nov. 23d 1866

Alexander Humbar,

Sir:

Explanation of your system of treating the feet of horses satisfies me not only that it is the best treatment yet devised but that almost all complaints, leading to lameness of the horse, though apparently in the knee, hip, shoulder or elsewhere, really exists in the foot. I have had your treatment applied, with advantage to form very valuable horses of my own and have withered the effect of your treatment on some of the most valuable horses in the United States.— I do not hesitate to recommend your treatment to all persons having

large numbers of horses, or a few very valuable, as well worthy of their attention

Yours Truly

U. S. Grant

Lieut. Gen'l

CHAPTER IX.

ON BREEDING.

The proper material for the "walking ground", should be loose sand, from nine to twelve inches deep; this strengthens the muscle, and saves the feet.

The effort of walking in loose sand, brings more muscle into action, at the same time, than any mode of exercise in general use.

A danseuse, in her exercise, increases the muscle and strength of the legs, while the pugilist in the process of training, brings more muscles at one time into use, than any other exercise or labor that a man can be put at; while the gymnast becomes equally strong and muscular. Yet, the process of training does not call into action all the muscles simultaneously, as in the case of the pugilist; for instance, in the trapeze performer, the hands and arms are only brought in play while in the act of swinging, the legs hanging, the muscles are relaxed; on the contrary, while the legs only are attached to it, then the hands and body are swinging; in a word, with the gymnast, one member, with the muscles, are exercised at a time. Not so with the pugilist or swordsman, almost every muscle and member of the body, are brought into action at the same time. Just so with the colt or horse exercised upon sand; as there is no firm foundation for the foot, the whole labor is upon the muscle, and therefore it develops accordingly.

The horse or colt should never, either in walking or trotting, be required to stride far; the step should be short and quick: this will not only give power of muscle, but high and lofty action; besides the sand would, in a slight degree, substitute a means the horse is entirely deprived of in a domestic

state ; that is, friction on the coronet, from the foot, each time it is drawn up, coming in contact with the long grass or vegetable matter, of any kind. Horses, when turned out, instead of being turned out in the winter, chilling their blood, and destroying their constitution, were they turned out in long and strong matted early clover, the feet first being prepared in accordance with my system, would get more good in one month, than they would, otherwise, in years.

The principal cause of weakness on the sides of the hoof has its origin in this want ; and I would rather have ten minutes of the labor of the groom on the coronet, with a corn cob, than an hour on the other parts of the body.

This, with the sand, is the only substitute that we have, in the domestic state, for the long vegetation, in the normal condition of the horse.

Friction and moisture are sufficient, and most natural, in growing new hoof; a forced growth by stimulants, that is liniments &c. does not produce as strong or as good material in the hoof. There is as much difference in the material grown, between the two methods, as there is between vegetables grown in a hot-bed and the open air. (I used neither liniments nor hoof ointment during the term of my contract with the U. S. Government, for when used, they are generally injudiciously applied.) I find that the hoof, when feverish, grows faster than when natural, and instead of stimulating the growth by liniments, the growth should be prevented, if possible, by cooling lotions and frictions, as before described.

The quality of the hoof grown, with and without sufficient moisture, varies in its quality, as vegetables do, raised in hot weather in the open air, similarly supplied.

Where a hoof has become brittle, you will produce better material, by pricking around the coronet, using the corn cob, and by giving to the horses sound hoof, very finely pulverized, or any chemical substance that has similar properties in it, in his feed. This does not improve the old hoof, but only the new growth, especially that of the wall ; I would also advise

to feed good healthy bone-dust to horses that are pastured on low and alluvial soil, or fed with hay, grain or roots, produced from such soil.

Stallions and mares in the erotic season, should be exercised in a similar manner, upon sand. They should not be wearied ; both should get exercise in the morning before gratifying their passion.

If the color or likeness of the horse is preferred, they should get exercise together, the mare following the horse, keeping him in view, which will leave the impress of his best and most graceful action. If not wearied or angered, there will be cheerful, active, energetic, affectionate qualities, combined in the colt.

The horse or stallion, should have sufficient exercise every evening, without wearying him, to not only strengthen, but to do away with "*ennui*," so that he will rest and sleep better.

The mare should never be allowed to see the stallion immediately after serving, as his muscles are relaxed, his spirit languid. while his shape seems to be deteriorated ; in fact, the style of the horse is entirely changed.

If the appearance, color or shape, of another horse would be preferred, then as in the case of my father-in-law's, "*Hickory*," any shape or color can be almost certainly obtained, as in the article, "*Vision Theory*," by E. H. of Chester, Pennsylvania, sustaining mine, on color.

The mare, while pregnant, should be worked and speeded, of course ; carefully driven, but not at such a speed that she would be twisted or checked by catching her up, in breaking ; neither should she be driven so far as to weary her. Her mind being upon this, will have its effect upon the colt.

All mares should be served with blinds on, so that the horse cannot be seen after the act, and should be ridden four or five miles, in a slow jog, else she should be fed some oats thinly sprinkled on a board, one handful at a time for from ten to fifteen minutes ; it will divert her attention from straining, besides endowing the foal with a good appetite.

This should especially be done with a mare, old, or hitherto barren ; besides, in the latter case, she should be rubbed with a stick or corn cob, over the lumbar vertebra of the back or loins. This will prevent her from straining, but may also entail on the foal a frisky or restless habit. Better a frisky colt for the first, however, than none at all.

Leamington, is stinted to thirty mares ; this is nonsense. A horse can serve three mares a day, without injury to him. How many times does the horse at liberty, transfer his seed ? I say transfer, because there are numbers of spirited horses, that apparently go through the operation, without disposing of any seed. This can be detected by their wanting to remain on the mare, or trying to get to her again after having been taken off.

If he serves the mare, he feels more or less languid, and shows, sometimes, marks of displeasure, if he does not like her.

Whether is the cow, that is well milked three times a day, well fed, having quiet and sufficient rest, better in every sense, then the cow milked but once or twice, amidst almost continued excitement.

The horse should be walked or jogged at a brisk, lively, short-stepping gait, not sufficient to heat, but enough to set his blood coursing through his veins, his spirits moderately exuberant, not in the least dulled by exertion—as there must be sufficient excitement created, to prepare him to mount.

The horse immediately after service should be taken to his stall, and that should be in the quietest place. It should be darkened, so that he could sleep for an hour or two, which he would be sure to do if not disturbed by spectators &c. He should, after rest, get his exercise on sand for the day.

Treat him in this way, and he will get three foals every day, better foals, with a more suitable temperament, better muscle, good appetite, and stronger constitution than he otherwise would.

The healthy horse, limited to thirty mares, suffers more through excitement in anticipation of being gratified, than he

would by serving three mares a day, with the time between service properly arranged, with proper food and sufficient time for rest.

This restlessness, caused by anticipation, is often transferred to the progeny, and is another source of transmitting the speed to the head, instead of the feet.

The horse, like the cow, when attended to regularly, with the proper quantity of rest, will produce more, and of a better quality, than those kept amongst continued excitement.

Compare the milk of a restless, irregularly milked cow, with that of one regularly milked; the result will be obvious.

Just so with the male of any kind; either human, fowl or brute: if they do not get rest, which they are all disposed to take, after gratification, it will wear them more and cause them to look much more nervous and old, than three times the exertion would do by taking proper rest, besides entailing a better disposition and constitution on their progeny.

A great deal depends on the arrangement of the structure of the horse and mare, that is, when no precaution is taken in attracting the attention while gratifying themselves, as in the case of the "Hickory Horse."

In mixing the French Canadian mare with the thoroughbred horse, if you happen to get the chest and forelegs of the mare, with the horse's shoulder, head, neck and lungs, and hind part, you add to the speed and endurance of the thoroughbred, in most cases, as a trotter, but in all cases, as a road horse. On the contrary, if you have the chest of the thoroughbred, with the shoulder, forelegs, neck, head, lungs, and hindpart, the progeny is not as good as either the dam or the sire.

Had Bruno the chest of his dam, there would be more room for his liver, the sole cause of his deterioration of speed. His liver becoming enlarged, condenses the space necessary for its own occupation with that of the lungs, as in the case with the human body, similarly affected.

After having returned from giving instructions to the officers and farriers of the United States Army, in accordance with my contract with the government, which was in October 1869, Mr. Bonner asked me to go and see Bruno, as he was not doing well. He was then at the new Brooklyn track. Bruno was drooping and dull, with a feeble appetite, hair dry, weak, and defective in speed. His trouble was not all in his feet. His liver was double the size it should have been. I directed him to be bled, and ordered him quinine. He improved immediately, his appetite became better, but not his strength. Mr. Bonner seemed somewhat discouraged at this, and asked me the reason. I replied that the strength never does return fully, no more than it does to a man after he has had the ague, bilious fever, or any other disease in connection with the liver. Mr. Bonner exclaimed with much concern, "What! will he never regain his strength, and be as well as ever?" I remarked, "Bruno may, if well-cared for, regain his usual strength in about *two years*, but never will he be capable of enduring all that he otherwise would, had he not been troubled in this way. You may restore either man or beast to his usual strength for a brief period, but to restore him to his normal condition, or make him equal in durability to that which he would have been, when matured, is an impossibility." His feet were at this time very much out of shape, and one foot in particular was decidedly crooked, and when I pointed out its defects, he said, "I am ashamed of myself for allowing a horse of mine to have feet grow in such condition in so short a period of time. It will take me ten years Sir, yet, to learn all *you* know."

I had not seen him then for fifteen months, or during the term I was engaged with the United States government. Mr. Bonner made arrangements to have Bruno brought from the track, where Dan Fifer was training him, and I treated the crooked foot. He had the rolling motion shoe on. We did it in the night. I was not aware that it was Roberge's man that I was directing, until the foot had been treated. I did nothing to the other foot, as I did not want Roberge to get

any more points, as Mr. B. called the knowledge of my system. Mr. Bonner told me that he had had a quarrel with "Andy," his former shoer, countryman, and school-fellow.

Mr. Bonner was greatly astonished at the bad condition of the foot. After it had been treated, it was so much changed in appearance, that he again said, he was ashamed of himself, that he could not practice my system better. This I think was the last thing I did for him.

The following article appeared in the Wilmington *Commercial*, Saturday, August 5th, 1871 :

THE DUNBAR TREATMENT OF HORSE'S FEET.

To the Editor of the Commercial :

An article appeared in one of the local exchanges regarding Bruno, in which it was stated that he had trotted a half mile in 1.5½, which is the fastest time on record.

This horse a few years ago was purchased by Mr. Phife, in a crippled condition, for $9,000, though he had been sold a short time previously, when sound, for $22,000.

A short time after, he came into the possession of Mr. Bonner, and, like Auburn, would have died had he not been bled and treated for liver complaint under the supervision of Mr. Dunbar. The horse had been drooping for a long time, and although Mr. Bonner exercised all of his own powers and the best veterinary skill in the country, yet Bruno continued to grow worse until after having advice from Mr. Dunbar, on his return from teaching the officers and farriers in the United States Army.

Mr. Bonner must have realized a large margin of profit on both Dexter and Bruno, as he purchased them both in a crippled state without any advance on Bruno.

By the way, this reminds us that Mr. Dunbar who taught so many of our best citizens how to remedy defects in the

horse's feet, is now in our city, and within the last week has taught no less than eight pupils.

We quote an extract—from a letter dated January 3d, 1868—written by Mr. Bonner, in which he says : "Mr. Dunbar is the only man, so far as I know,—and I have studied everything on the subject,—who really understands the whole philosophy of the horse's foot. In my stable I have not one horse that is unsound ; but before I became acquainted with Mr. Dunbar's system I parted with several lame horses, that if I had them now I could cure by adopting Mr. Dunbar's treatment."

What a change ! Mr. Bonner makes a practice now of buying speedy horses in an unsound condition, such as Major Winfield, Joe Elliott, Dexter, Bruno, and the half of those he was possessed of when he became acquainted with Dunbar were useless for road or speeding purposes. Auburn and Peerless wore bar shoes.

The knowledge Mr. Bonner received from Mr. Dunbar must have increased the value of those hitherto lame horses to more than $100,000, in the aggregate.

This must be very encouraging, indeed, to those of our citizens who have received instructions, as they will, in accordance with the value of their horses, profit in a similar ratio.

Mr. Dunbar has written a small work, which is being published by our very popular and enterprising townsman, William Warner, Esq., of the firm of Pusey, Scott & Co.

Mr. Dunbar is on his way to Europe, whither his second son, a youth of nineteen, accompanies him to complete his education.

From the improvements that Mr. Dunbar has been making in light and heavy draught, his improved stable floor, tooth rasp, and improved hay-baling machine, with his system of treating the horse's foot, we believe it may be safely asserted in similar language to that used by President Grant in describing the utility of the Dunbar system, after two years experience in the United States Army, to Generals Logan

and Rosecrans, that "Mr. Dunbar knows more about the horse in general, has done more to enhance his value and ameliorate his condition, than any man now living, or that ever has lived."

The following article, the work of a "hidden hand," appeared in the *Turf, Field and Farm*, of August 25th, 1871, in reply to the above:

"Notwithstanding that Mr. Dunbar does not write the best grammar in the world, we see by the Wilmington *Commercial* that he is to bring out a book; and we understand, from various sources, that the book is to contain no little gossip of a personal nature. We trust that Mr. Dunbar has sharply drawn the line between idle gossip and willful libel, for libel is sometimes an uncomfortable thing to shoulder. It is very apt to get publishers into trouble. But we are at a loss to understand what Mr. Dunbar can write that will cause a book to sell. Certainly he is not going to tell all he knows about the horse, for should he do that, his occupation, like Othello's, would be gone. He *may* take the bread and butter out of his own mouth, but we are not prepared to believe it, at least, not just now. Therefore, it seems to us that Mr. Wm. Warner, who professes to publish the book, has some money to squander which he can put to no wise purpose. Are there no objects worthy of charity in the State of Delaware?"

If grammar is good medicine for horses, could not Mr. Bonner have saved Auburn from death by a dose of what he knows of the English grammar and dead languages, and Bruno from two or more years of uselessness?

CHAPTER X.

DUNBAR ON COLOR—CURIOUS IF TRUE.

JANUARY 17, 1871.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—In accordance with my promise, I now endeavor to give you my views on the origin of colors in breeding.

While a youth in the backwoods of Canada West, among the many difficulties of the early settlers was the want of proper dye-stuffs with which to color their wool. This difficulty was partially remedied by placing a black dog in the sheep-cote at a certain season; the dog had to be a strange one, else he would attract the notice only of the most timid sheep, and when a very black dog was found, it became much sought after by those neighbors who wanted to increase the number of their black lambs.

Persons accustomed to this mode of treatment could calculate almost correctly, knowing the disposition of the sheep, how many black lambs they would require and procure; they would therefore only retain the dog a certain length of time, sufficient to secure a proportionate number of black lambs.

In our flock, without any effort on our part to secure them, a very timid ewe had twins resembling two of our dogs; dogs the most unlike each other, both in shape and color imaginable; the one an Indian dog, mouse color, with hair coarse as a Scotch terrier, in shape resembling rather the wolf than the greyhound; the other a bull-terrier, white, with the exception of some black spots around the eye, almost covering the one

side of the face, the opposite ear, two parts black with the tip white; a black spot on the butt of the tail, and another at the point of the pelvis bone, where it rests against the lumbar vertebræ or back bone, behind the loins. Each lamb resembled exactly, in shape, color and hair, the dogs; the one with fine, soft hair, the other with course.*

But as they grew older and matured, they became much more sheep-like, and of course more like one another, losing their resemblance, in shape, to the dogs.

While a young man I also bred a stallion, no mean one either, as he took the first prize at the County Show. He was blood bay, with bay legs to the pastern, had not a white hair, except those which came by accident. At the age of thirteen, he was purchased by an American gentleman, and imported to this country.

When five years old he made a season at Gen. Jackson's, who had a horse marked like Dexter, (the only difference, he being a chestnut,) named Hickory, in honor of his owner's cousin, President Jackson, of the United States.

Every foal gotten at that place was the color of the Hickory horse, whatever the color of the dam.

This had its origin no doubt in the fact that the horse remained a stallion until after five years of age, and though then castrated, retained his propensity for the mare. When my stallion was brought out of his stall into the court-yard to try a mare, as usual with such horses on such occasions, neighing

*In the month of July, 1871, while on a visit to Canada, I telegraphed for my two brothers and favorite nephew, Daniel A. Dunbar, to meet me at my home. My brothers are both older than I, and my nephew only ten years my junior.

The hours we passed were the most enjoyable of any, I think, spent anterior to that period. We sat it out through the "Wee sma hours," reviewing scenes, incidents and follies of our youthful days, criticising each other on many points, one of which was, the silly heading of the pieces, in the discussion between G. W. B. and myself, which I, of course, disclaimed having any thing to do with.

They then drew my attention to the article I had written on the origin of colors, stating that I had forgotten one of the most peculiar features in the two lambs resembling Nero and Damsel, which was, that Damsel's ears were never cropped, and that one of them always kept an upright position, similar to the fox, wolf, or cropped ear of the bull-terrier, while the other, lopped similar to the ears of the greyhound; this was the case with the lamb that resembled Damsel in shape and color; the one ear stood erect, while the other remained lopped; the one lamb, being nervous and irritable, while the other was docile and peaceable.

his salutation, Hickory, whose pasture-plot was adjoining, would dash up as near as possible ; and when excited, fully sustained the description Job gave of the ancient war-horse, neighing, rearing, striking out with his foremost feet, trotting, snorting, bounding, with head and tail erect, inclined now to this side, then to that, with that majestic stride we seldom see in harness ; snuffing the wind as though it was created solely for his special purpose, only acting after all as all such horses do when excited by similar circumstances, thus attracting the whole attention of the mare while in the act of *copulation.* The result was similar in effect to Jacob's speculation with his father-in-law's sheep and cattle.

The varied colors of the mustang, or wild horse, that so much resemble kine or horned cattle, are caused by intermingling with the herds, among which some commotion attracts the attention of the wild and timid mare, while in the act of copulation.

In the case of the plumed or crested "turkey" exhibited at the poultry show at New York City some short time ago, there must have been an unsettled contest between either or both, (most likely the hen turkey,) with a Houdan, Poland, or some other plumed or crested cock. Seeing the turkies in the act of copulation it excited his ire, and caused him to rush at them as I have often seen them do, seizing the female turkey by the top of the head, and thus, figuratively speaking, inoculating the impression, and so photographing his likeness on her progeny as to produce the first crest or plume seen on the turkey.

Any person anxious to test this philosophy need only to take a dozen pair of pure white pigeons ; let them dye any part of the male birds, the tail, points of the wings, top of the head, or any other visible part, especially the strongest or master male, and you will, before three months, have every color, if dark, represented in their progeny, since this master male bird invariably exercises his authority by rushing on any of the others, if at all convenient, while in the act of copulation, thus attracting at the time, the whole attention of the

female bird. These effects are also sometimes produced through love.

There might be much said on this same subject in connection with the human race ; for instance, the difference in the color of hair and complexion in families born of the same parents ; the difference in shape, size, strength and disposition. I have known babes to resemble a servant maid much more, when young, than either of the parents.

There has been a great deal of controversy lately in your valuable paper relative to pedigree, power of endurance, Clay in "colors," Clay in "sawdust," and Clay as bad material in muscle, in horse parlance, for sticking power.

It is not enough that we have pedigree and fine blood ; the majority of fine bred horses have more brain than physical powers, thus accounting for horses of this class, and, with too few exceptions, having more speed in their head than in their feet.

As nature must furnish the artist with material and model, in order that he can produce art, so it is necessary, generally speaking, to have pedigree in horses ; though, with all the advantages of pedigree, there is much more in locality, and the largest quantity, of material ingredients in the soil on which they are bred. Pedigree, with these advantages, united to judicious training, good food when stabled, pure air and sufficient exercise or labor to develop the muscle at the right age, with proper care of the feet, gives us animals that can scarcely fail to attain high speed. On the other hand, pedigree without these is nothing. Why such a difference among horses of equal pedigree ? It must arise, pricipally, from those causes which I have enumerated.

For instance, take a family of ten persons—of course equal in pedigree—at a certain age, five of them—three boys and two girls are apprenticed ; one as a tailor, the next as a shoemaker, the third as a blacksmith ; one of the girls is made a danseuse, the other a dairy maid. Contrast the legs of the the tailor with those of the danseuse, or any of the others ; or

the blacksmith's, dairy maid's, or even the shoemaker's arms, with those of the danseuse ; then compare the five accustomed to work with the other five of the family, who, like petted colts, have neither proper air, liberty, nor exercise. The result will be obvious.

Horses will trot in two minutes, and less, when breeders understand more perfectly the proper soil to pasture their colts and dams on. Likewise to select hay and grain from suitable land, and the right material on which to give them walking and jogging exercise, in order to strengthen and develop their muscle without overtasking them. As also suitable exercise or labor for the stallion in the stud season, and the dam while carrying the foal.

Had old Hambletonian been judiciously worked or exercised through his long and celebrated career, as the sire of famous trotters, there would have been twenty or more equal to Dexter, as judged by his present time, where there are none now.

The soil and air of Orange County and of Kentucky have done as much, if not more, for breeders there, than pedigree has done for others in less favorable parts, though all the stock receive equal care.

The human family are also similarly affected by locality and soil. Where the soil is alluvial or low, you rarely find so able or energetic people, mentally or physically, as you do on high or rolling land, having the largest proportion of mixed material in the soil ; that is, where families retain a homestead for two or three generations.

Nature, in horses, and Providence, in connection with the human family, are overtaxed. As the artist must perfect his work with no other aid from Nature than in furnishing material, so with intellect in the human family. We got all in Adam and Eve, leaving with us the power to cultivate it. Horses, like the human family, are varied in their condition, yet they have a similar origin. And to mould them for greater feats than they have yet performed, is in the power of man.

I had, a few days ago, a very pleasant and speedy drive with Mr. Sheppard, Esq., one of the firm of Alex. Sheppard & Brothers, on the avenue, the paving of which with wood has given occasion for the grand carnival to come off on the 21st and 22nd of this month, here in Washington city. Should you come, as I trust you will, Mr. Sheppard, no doubt, will give you too a drive with his flyers. Mr. Alexander drives a very stylish pair.

This Sheppard family are the most prosperous in the District, and I question whether there is any more so in the country, doing an industrious and legitimate business.

I have written to Mr. Goul to bring on the Flying Postmaster. He will make his mark in due time.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

THE VISION THEORY.

MARCH, 1st, 1871.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—Mr Dunbar's article on color in breeding is probably a little stronger in the statement of facts than will be taken at par by many of the readers of the TURF, FIELD AND FARM, but I can support his views by a few facts of very similar kind, and beg leave to offer them.

My brother had a red Durham heifer, and his neighbor had a red Durham bull. They were of a variety of short-horns that were among the earliest importations to the Eastern part of Pennsylvania, and were pretty uniformly of one color. When the heifer was in erotic heat she was led in a halter to the line fence between the two farms and tied to a tree, while the bull was being brought to the fence from the other side of the neighbor's field. In the same field with the bull was a brindle ox with a white face, some white on his belly, and the brush of his tail white. A gap having been made in the fence, it was a difficult matter to get the young bull through it, because the older ox was master, and drove the bull away.

This all took place in plain view of the heifer, and all the circumstances were such as to strongly impress the appearance of the ox on the minds of the bull and heifer. The offspring of the connection that followed was a brindle calf with the white marks of the ox, and entirely different from any of the stock of its parents.

Happening to relate this fact among some friends, it brought out the following from one of them, and half a dozen others who were present confirmed the statement in its minutest particulars. There was, one Spring, a scarcity of shoats in the neighborhood, and a smart fellow went down into Maryland and brought up a lot of black Berkshires. They were eagerly bought by the farmers, not only because shoats were scarce just then, but also because they were of the new and popular breed. They turned out to be what the English call "a bad lot." They were of the miserable breed that is found half wild in the woods of Maryland ; and as they grew to hog's estate showed coarse bristles, heavy bones, long snouts and restless dispositions. They were "a fraud." A man one day took his sow to a neighbor's boar and let them meet in the road. While there together, enjoying animal passion, one of these black Marylanders joined the party. She was a sow, and sympathizing with the enjoyments of the pair, to use the expression of my informant, "went barking around."

Now, the breeding pair were not only white, but they were of that variety which originated here in Delaware and Chester Counties of Pennsylvania, and are known everywhere as Chester Whites. They have been white for so many generations that "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary ;" but the offspring of this particular pair were, part of them, black, and not only black, but were of the same coarse quality as the black sow that had so impressed her appearance upon the minds of the white parents. These two cases are authentic. I often hear of similar cases that I do not doubt, but I do not offer them as evidence of the law which controls such matters, because there is no use in stating anything for facts that are not clearly reliable in all their particulars.

CHESTER, Penn. E. H.

CHAPTER XI.

IMPORTANT LETTERS.

LETTER FROM GENERAL U. S. GRANT.

HEAD QUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 10th, 1866.

I have examined Dr. Alexander Dunbar's method of treating diseases of the horse's hoof, and the practical method devised by him of preventing such diseases, by proper shaving, and am satisfied that the information, if imparted to Army Farriers, would save to the Government thousands of dollars annually.

More horses become useless from diseases of the hoof, probably, than from old age and all other diseases combined; though in ignorance, in the majority of cases, the disability is attributed by Veterinary Surgeons, to other causes.

I think his information on the subject well worth procuring for the use of Government.

Signed, U. S. GRANT,
Lt. General.

To Maj. Gen. M. C. MEIGS, Q. M. General.

True copy. JAMES A. EKINS,
Brev't Brigadier General, in charge of 1st, Div. Q. M. G. O.

LETTER FROM SIR FREDERICK A. BRUCE.

BRITISH LEGATION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 12th, 1866.

MY LORD:

Mr. Alexander Dunbar, a native of Canada, is about to proceed to England, where he is anxious to have an opportunity of testing his method of treating diseases in the feet of horses.

Mr. Dunbar is the bearer of numerous testimonials, from both officers and civilians in this country, as to the efficacy of his cures; and, on General

Grant's recommendation Congress authorized the Secretary of War to employ his services for one year, in instructing some of the Military Farriers in his mode of treatment. At Mr. Dunbar's request I have furnished him with this letter as a means of bringing his suggestions to the notice of *Her Majesty's Government.*

I have the honor to be, My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,
SIR FREDERICK A. BRUCE.

The Right Hon. THE EARL OF LONGFORD, K. C. B.

LETTER FROM ROBERT BONNER.

LEDGER OFFICE, 90 BEEKMAN STREET,
NEW YORK, August 28th, 1866.

HON. EDWIN M. STANTON,

DEAR SIR:—I take the liberty to introduce the bearer, Dr. Alexander Dunbar, who, in accordance with a bill passed by both houses of Congress, will have some official business with you. The bill to which I refer, is as follows:

"Mr. Wilson, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported the joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to contract with Dr. Alexander Dunbar for his mode of treatment for diseases of horse's feet, and to instruct the Farriers of the army in the use of the same, which was passed."

I have, myself, made quite a hobby of the hores's foot for several years. I have probably devoted more time to the study of it, than any other person in this city. Every work that I could obtain on the subject, whether published in Europe or in this country, I have in my possession, and I am free to say that Dr. Dunbar knows more about the horse's foot, than all the authors who have ever written on it, and all Veterinary Surgeons with whom I have conversed. I have tested it myself, on, at least, a dozen horses, and I have invariably found it to work well, and every person in this city who has tried it, and been initiated into the secret of the Dr.'s practice, is in rapture with it.

I am sure it would be of incalculable benefit to all horses of the army to have this new method of treating the foot adopted by the Government. I can assure you that I would not myself be without my present knowledge of the foot, most of which (that is really valuable) I have acquired through Dr. Dunbar, for thousands of dollars, though before I saw him I was in advance of the present veterinary practice.

It only requires a thorough knowledge of the horse to appreciate its value.

Truly yours,
Signed, ROBERT BONNER.

LETTER FROM LT. GEN. U. S. GRANT.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 19th, 1866.

HON. R. C. SCHENCK, *Chairman Military Committee of the House of Representatives.*

DEAR SIR:—Dr. Alexander Dunbar has asked me for a letter addressed to your committee, expressing my views in relation to the advantages of his system of treating the horse's foot, and the benefits that would be derived by its introduction into the army. I have examined the system, and also had the views of persons who have tried it, they say with great success, in horses of great value. There is no doubt in my mind but what it possesses great merit, and would save to the service immensely, in dollars, and in additional efficiency, if it could be succesfully introduced. On this point I would say that I do not see how it is to be successfully introduced, except Dr. Dunbar should be required to give his time exclusively to teaching Farriers in the army, such at least as might be sent to him, or he to them, and they, in turn, to become teachers. One year is the least time I should think necessary to accomplish this end.

I have the honor to be, very Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Signed, U. S. GRANT,
Lt. General.

LETTER FROM M. C. MEIGS, Q. M. G.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 30th, 1866.

DR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,

WASHINGTON, D. C. SIR:—The Secretary of War has referred the following papers for report:

A letter from Robert Bonner dated New York, August 28, 1866, introducing Dr. Alexander Dunbar, and certifying to the efficacy of his mode of treating horse's feet, and one from C. Vanderbilt, same date, to the same effect.

I find that a joint Resolution has been passed by Congress in the following words:

"That the Secretary of War be authorized and directed to contract, on such terms as, in his discretion, he may think fair and reasonable, with Dr. Alexander Dunbar, for the use, by the Government, of the alleged discovery of the said Dunbar, of a mode of treatment of the diseases of the horse's foot, and for his service for one year, in instructing the Farriers of

the army in such treatment. The amount agreed upon, to be paid out of the fund already appropriated for the purchase of horses, or general support of the army. Approved July 28th, 1866."

Have you any plans of operations, any proposition to make to the United States, in reference to the objects of this law?

Very Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

Quarter Master General, Brevet Brigadier General, U. S. A.

LETTER FROM ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27th, 1866.

HON. R. C. SCHENCK, *Chairman of Military Committee of the House of Representatives.*

DEAR SIR:—It would be unpardonable negligence on my part, were I not to furnish you with all the information in my possession, to enable you to sustain the position in which you are placed, in relation to my bill, should any objection arise to its progress. There are reports filed in the Cavalry Bureau, from the Inspectors, both military and civil, at Geisboro, stating that from the moment I explained to them the motion of the "Os Pedis," they refused horses that they otherwise would have purchased, and also condemned many of those formerly chosen for the Shenandoah Valley, adding thereby very much to the efficiency of Sheridan's Cavalry, and thus placing you in receipt of one feature of the benefit accruing to the service, through my system.

You have reports among my papers from Inspector Ball, of the Regular service, Grimly, of the Volunteer service, and also Gates and Bates, of the Civil service, which will sustain this assertion.

Signed, ALEXANDER DUNBAR.

LETTER FROM GEN. U. S. GRANT.

HEAD QUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 12th, 1867.

HON. R. C. SCHENCK, *Chairman of Military Committee of the House of Representatives.*

GENERAL:—A bill passed Congress authorizing the Secretary of War, to purchase from Dr. A. Dunbar, for the use of Government, his secret for treating the horse's foot. No specific amount to be paid for this secret was mentioned in this bill, nor the manner of communicating it to Army Far-

riers. The Dr. now wants paid to him $100,000, to be used in establishing a school in the city of New York, to teach his art to all who wish to take tuitions, and, as I understand, to teach all Farriers in Government service, free.

I wish to abstain from making direct recommendations for appropriations that can be avoided, and will therefore only speak of what I think of the merits of Dr. Dunbar's discovery.

Being naturally fond of the horse, I have examined into this matter closely. I am satisfied that most of the lameness heretofore supposed to exist in the joints, shoulder, hip, or back, exists in the feet, and that Dr. Dunbar has discovered the remedy.

I believe the average time of the usefulness of the horse, particularly when subjected to hard use, will be increased one half by an intelligent application of his treatment. I have seen instances where many valuable horses have been unserviceable for years, and by the application of Dr. Dunbar's treatment have been fully restored in a few weeks. There is nothing in this treatment that cannot be learned by any blacksmith in a short time, nor is there anything in it that does not strike any one examining it, as being something that ought to have been known before. The wonder is, that so simple a remedy for most common defects, in so useful an animal as the horse, was not cotemporaneous with his usefulness.

I think Dr. Dunbar has in his possession a secret with which this whole country would be much benefited, by having it diffused until every Farrier should become acquainted with it.

Dr. Dunbar can show strong letters from parties in New York, who have tried his remedy, strongly recommending it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
General.

LETTER FROM GEN. U. S. GRANT.

HEAD QUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 29th, 1867.

HON. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

DEAR SIR: —Having been asked to state specifically whether I regard the secret possessed by Dr. Alexander Dunbar, for treating the "horse's foot," as worth to government the amount asked by him, to wit: (one hundred

thousand dollars,) I will say that, taking a great interest in the horse, I have examined his system closely, and believe it of the greatest importance to the country that his information should be diffused speedily. The amount asked for, bears no proportion to the annual benefits which would follow an intelligent application of his system. The only question, in my opinion, should be, as to the best method of introducing the information possessed by Dr. Alexander Dunbar.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
General.

BLEEDING.

Bleeding, I think good in all cases of inflammation. The only query in my opinion is, as to the *quantity* to be taken.

This modern change is too radical, from so much bleeding, to none at all.

It is said that "bleeding shortens life." We should like to have a scale given us, whereby we would know how much certain quantities of blood taken, would shorten life. Say a quart taken from a man, twenty, thirty, forty or fifty years of age, whether plethoric or thin. Also, how much at the different ages it will shorten life, or how it would vary in the two, the man with too much, and the one with too little, blood.

Were the same amount of blood that falls from the nose of the youth of both sexes, in many cases, between the ages of eleven and seventeen, taken from them by the lance, what would popular opinion say. Yet physicians and others look upon bleeding at the nose as a very trivial matter.*

*Yet, at this age, if the authorized theory is correct, more blood is required than at any other period of life; that is, if the structure or material of the body is furnished solely through the blood.

We have known young people at that age to bleed at the nose every day, and some two or three times a day to exhaustion, which were it all collected for the term there would certainly be nearly as much as the weight of the body; a pint being a pound.

If the youth at this age requires more blood than at any other period of life to furnish the increase of material, from what source is it procured, when nearly all the blood escapes through the nose, the youth increasing more in size, and of course requiring a larger supply of material. If then, as we have stated, the blood is nearly all wasted through the nose, from what source is this growth promoted?

I know it will be said that the impurities of the blood pass away through the skin, kidneys, liver, lungs, &c., yet the means used to force the impurities from the blood, are more exhaustive upon the system, than taking away surplus and impure blood with the lance.

I have been bled seven times, and I would rather be bled fifty times than go through any of the operations I have been put through in order to purify the blood by medicines, and other applications, either Allopathic, Homeopathic, or Hydropathic, Turkish or Russian Baths, or as I might call all, or any one of them, the Hydraulic power, created in the system by nostrums, without any reflection, either upon the odor or taste, nausea, pains, aches, loosening of the teeth, even to salivation.

Here are two cases worthy of consideration. President Grant's two young mares, one of which died, though treated strictly in accordance with the modern faith. She was attended by Dr. Braley, Veterinary Surgeon, and Dr. Norris, next, I believe, in rank, in the United States service, to Surgeon General Barnes. The mare had been drugged to the full satisfaction of both Doctors, and nursed by Mr. Richard Curtis, the President's confidential groom.

The other has done well, although the attack was just as violent, if not more so, without giving her a particle of medicine internally, and I treated her by a method that Dr. Norris said, even after the death of the other, he was utterly opposed to: Dr. Braley taking the opposite course, inquired into all that I did, and watched the case with the most careful attention.

I simply bled the mare, taking from her a stable-bucket full of blood, though she was only two years old, but large, and well matured, having been highly fed and well attended since the time she was weaned, which was prematurely, her dam having died, (under Braley's care,) while she was of a tender age;

We have never known a case of excessive bleeding at the nose but happens at the time of the greatest draught of material, or when the most rapid development of the structure requires more material, and we have never known any lack of growth caused by loss of blood, but rather on the contrary; as bleeding generally ceases at maturity.

and through which calamity, she wears the name of "Little Orphan." She is a very desirable filly, a well-bred Hambletonian, and a very great favorite of the President. Besides, she is a trotter, having been already trained in harness, sufficiently to try her speed.

She stands nearly sixteen hands high, measures six feet two inches where the girth encircles her, has as good accommodation for lungs as any horse can have, a long body, long and large pelvis, well set, as is also the scapula, with peculiar joints, all well adapted for trotting and endurance, a strong, well shaped hoof, nearly black in color, with the exception of a white mark on one hind foot, a good disposition, in fact a mare that should please the most fastidious. The other was much more fine in her structure, and beautiful; bred between his thorough bred trotting mare, and Rysdyke, Mr. A. Welch's Hambletonian.

I have used externally, first, vinegar alone; then, smartweed alternately; again vinegar, alum and saltpetre; and as a salve at night, sulphate of zinc, alum, saltpetre, and sulphur, mixed with lard.

There is much speculation, relative to the disease; Dr. Braley calls it poison; Dr. Norris agrees with him, thinks it is from some poisonous vegetable matter in the pasture. So much alarmed were they, that Dr. Norris took his mare from the pasture, as did also General Michler.

The disease had its origin in an ulcer, caused by an injury to the young mare that died, from getting her leg into, and breaking, the iron support for the driver's foot, on a sulky.

The filly running to pasture, they neglected cleansing the ulcer; the pus, through the great heat, accumulating and partially congealing, became putrid, and, therefore, poisonous. Its locality, being at about the middle of the metatarsal bones, a convenient place for the tail from which to lift the virus to the sacrum or root of the tail, and to the vagina and fundament, inoculating these parts, most likely through some puncture, or bite of a fly, or a slight abrasion by rubbing

against a tree, the tail with every motion, conveying a fresh supply of the infection. It was thought that perhaps a poisonous fly, reptile, or vegetable might have come in contact with the wound. This could not have been the case, as the original wound showed no symptoms of increased inflammation.

This filly conveyed the infection to the other, they being half sisters and always companions ; the one by the tail conveyed the infection to the other ; the latter, having been attacked fully as violently as the former, and I think, much more so.

I advised those attending the first one, to treat her as I did the latter. This they refused, thinking, no doubt, that my knowledge of the horse was entirely limited to the feet.

I could have cured her much quicker by giving her some medicine, but I make it a practice to give as little as possible, especially when they are in the hands of their owner's grooms ; besides, I wanted to prove that I used no liniments whatever, while bleeding is not to be solely discarded, giving instruction, in connection with my contract, for the reason given.

Though bleeding has been the principal thing in saving that mare, yet, Dr. Norris says he is utterly opposed to bleeding. It is singular how much opposition there is to bleeding.

Nature must have been greatly in error in exacting so much, monthly, from the opposite sex of our race.

They say it shortens life ; I think otherwise. Compare the deaths and dates in our Cemeteries, when bleeding was popular, with the present time, when the method has been discarded, and you will find a preponderance to the credit of modern treatment.

At the proximity of apoplexy, bleeding would be a preventive, if only bled ten minutes previously to the time of the threatened attack.

Inflammation and high fever, in a few attacks, will waste

the system, and injure the constitution more, and make the patient weaker, in a short time, than proper bleeding will do.

The blood does not accomplish all that has been accredited to it. It does not supply all the members with nutrition. It cannot bestow what it is not possessed of itself. If it did so, the material grown would vary in quality in accordance with the good or bad condition of the food.

This is not the case. When a person becomes bilious, the complexion reflects the disease in the color of the skin ; while neither the material, nor condition of the nail in the man, nor the hoof in the horse are changed thereby, neither is the bone nor muscle ; besides, it is asserted that the blood has power over the other members, it being, practically speaking, the manufacturer of them ; yet inoculation of the flesh affects the blood, and according to that logic, every member is similarly affected in that portion of the material grown, while remaining under such influence.

We believe when water becomes dirty, and unfit for use, better cast it out, than attempt to filter it. Just so with the blood ; when it becomes impure, it is better to cast it away than to attempt purification ; as I said before, the process of cleansing costs more than it is worth. In the filtering of the water, the dregs or impurities remain in the charcoal and sand ; but in the cleansing of the blood, how is it disposed of.* If through the lungs, kidneys, pores of the skin, or any other channel, the process is much more trying and objectionable, as far as personal comfort is concerned. Too much of any thing is burthensome, and troublesome, and where there is a surplus of blood, it inconveniences and shortens, rather than adds to the term of life.

The lively, active stream, has, through its action, almost the power of purifying itself, while the sluggish torpid one,

*While I do not pretend to thoroughly understand the functions of the blood, I do know that the "Little Orphan" filly would have died if treated as had been her deceased sister ; and thousands of men and horses too, whose bones are resolving themselves into dust, might be roaming this earth, bustling with life, had they been bled in time, and that judiciously.

becomes more vitiated and sluggish for want of room or action.

The lungs are represented as the filterer ; yet they are not sufficient ; thereby necessitating the use of medicines, as an auxiliary. Now, by what means, or through what passage or channel do they dispose of the bad or most sluggish part of the blood ? Does it become part of the material, or is it disposed of in the draught ?

I fear the nature and functions of the blood are no better understood than that of the horse's foot, or the process of firing. Why fire for both contraction and relaxation ? How do they reconcile the effect.

Firing in any case, simply gives easier access to the after application.

Bleeding was too often bunglingly performed when practiced, hence the extreme change.

The theory and practice of what is considered by experts, in these three cases, the foot, (hoof) the blood and firing, are in keeping with the teachings of quacks.

With my system of shoeing, my improved method of draught, as also my stable floor, tooth rasp, and hay bailing apparatus, the condition of the horse, one would think, would be greatly improved.

While the horse is compelled, or as Fate, I fear, has destined him, in a general way, to draw a more meagre quality of brains *behind* him, than those of his own, that is, among the class of men who more especially drive heavy draught horses, and take care of others, he yet requires much sympathy from intelligent owners, sufficient, at least, to make it a duty for every man, making pretensions to morality, science or philanthropy, to glean all the knowledge possible relative to ameliorating his condition, as he shares more evenly with us, the curse inflicted through our fallen nature, than any other domestic animal.

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LETTER FROM CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.

No. 25 West Fourth Street,
New York Aug. 28th, 1866.

Hon. E. M. Stanton,

My Dear Sir:—

This will be handed you by Dr. Alexander Dunbar, a gentleman whom I have every confidence in, in the way of his profession.

He has operated on some of my best horses, and brought them to a state of soundness, which I hardly supposed to be possible.

I consider him No. 1, in his profession, and think he can be of great service to the Farriers employed by the United States.

His mode of treatment is sensible in every respect. I think he can satisfy any unprejudiced mind, that his theory is correct.

Very respectfully yours,

Signed. CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.

LETTER FROM JOHN P. HATCH.

Cavalry Depot,
Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Feb. 5th, 1870.

Alexander Dunbar, Esq., Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:—

Your note of the 3rd inst. was handed me by Mr. Kiernan, previous to my leaving here. I intend to make, to the Quarter-Master General, a complete report of the progress of the school established here, for the instruction of blacksmiths.

It may, in the meantime, be satisfactory to you to know that your system of horse-shoeing has, after a trial of one year, been found satisfactory in every respect. I would be glad to compare the feet of the hundred horses here, with those of any hundred, not only in our army, but in any army in the world. We have sent to regiments over 20 horse-shoers instructed in your system. They have generally met a satisfactory reception. In some few instances the old prejudice has to be conquered by time. That your views will ultimately be adopted by all intelligent writers on the subject, I cannot doubt. Please give my kind regards to your son when you write home.

Very truly yours,

JOHN P. HATCH,
U. S. A.

James A. Ekin,
Deputy Q. M. Genl. Brevet Brigadier General, U. S. A.

CHAPTER XII.

EXPOSE OF THE BONNER ATTACK.

I fear that my readers will find my explanation of Mr. Bonner's attack upon me through Lee, and his purchase of Mr. Ayres and the Bruces, uninteresting to them. It has never been my disposition to meddle with other people's business, but where I am assailed so treacherously, and by those who had made professions of the purest friendship and deepest interest, I feel myself obliged, in order to defend my system, to explain in this little work, the true causes for this uncalled for assault, the perpetrators of which will carry as much guilt with them to the fount in which all pollution is cleansed, as the dastardly villain who assassinated Mr. Nathan.

The Bruces and Mr. Ayres first induced me to write against the rolling motion shoe, the bone of contention between Mr. Bonner and myself. I could not endorse the shoe to please Mr. Bonner, though at one time I would have done anything in reason, as well as many unreasonable things for him ; one of which was the refusing to treat Commodore Vanderbilt's horse, at his instigation. I remonstrated with him, for I wanted to treat the horse, and said to him that Dexter was worthy of a sound opponent, that the better the horse, the more honor it would be for him to excel.

While he acknowledged all that to be true, he declared that if I did anything for the Commodore or any of his followers, that he would be down upon me to the full extent of his power, stating that while he was a warm friend, he was a more bitter enemy. This I well knew from his low persecution of

the Commodore. The Commodore's great offense was not so much in driving a rival horse, but in a statement that his "acquaintance with Bonner was a mere road acquaintance."

I regret to say that I was compelled to succumb to his threats, and continued under the ban until October last, when after I had gotten a patent for a snow-plough I asked Mr. Bonner if he did not think I had better endeavor to get the Commodore interested in it. He said very peremptorily "No!" I would bear such restraint no longer even to retain his friendship; so called on the Commodore with my snow-plough, and found such reception as I might have expected—cool politeness. This act on my part burst the bond of friendship that he said had bound us so closely together.

I opened my mind to Mr. Ayres, a warm friend of mine, and for whom I held the highest regard, and to whom I went for advice and aid if I needed it, always finding him equal to the occasion.

Mr. Bonner had offended two others of his warmest friends, Mr. Ayres and Mr. Fife. Mr. Fife had purchased some horses for Mr. Bonner as a gentleman friend; and in return, he insulted him by slander, for which offense he was compelled to beg pardon of Mr. Fife, in Mr. Bonner's own office.

Mr. Ayres was also sore against him, he having refused him the use of the horse Winfield for a mare presented to him by Messrs. William and George Andrews, as Mr. Ayres had purchased both Joe Elliott and Winfield for Mr. Bonner in the same way that Mr. Fife had bought others for him.

Mr. Ayres urged me to write against the rolling motion shoe, not only because he believed it worthless, but to annoy Bonner. From week to week he declared I was too easy, and wished me to denounce him in plain and strong language. Col. Bruce also urged me to do so.

On the day that Busby, of the TURF, FIELD AND FARM, told me that Bonner wanted a reconciliation with me, Ayres advised me not to be reconciled, saying "you have got Bon-

ner where Davy Crockett had the coon, that he had got to his height and would have to come down if I would give it to him a little hotter."

Not more than two hours after Busby had made proposals for reconciliation, another met me with threats ; (as he remains true I shall not mention his name,) but while reasoning with him Mr. Ayres came up and said I was not half severe enough. The other gentleman told me that there would be means used to stop me. I asked "How," and added, that I had a good record." He then told me in confidence, that a man in the position that Bonner was, with wealth and power at his command, could not afford to be driven into a corner, that he could control the press, a thing I then thought impossible. I said he could not prevent me from writing a book. No, but he would destroy me in another way, put me in the hands of detectives, who would drug and then expose me in a police court, with other contrivances that I do not wish to mention. I asked Mr. Ayres advice ; he told me to be careful as to my company, which I always have been, and to always look under my bed and search my bed-room before retiring. Busby and Bruce gave me the same advice.

When surprised by the treachery of the "Turf, Field and Farm" of which explanation will be given in another place, I went to New York, telling my friends both in Baltimore and Wilmington, that I was not afraid of enemies while I had honest old straight forward Mr. Ayres for a friend. He was therefore the first person I called on. After hearing my complaint, instead of, as in former times, giving me counsel, he looked confused and said he could do nothing, as he sold his paper to both parties and could not sacrifice his business. I was astonished at this turn, for I knew that he had not been selling paper to Mr. Bonner since the time he was refused the use of the horse, and as he had told me that he did not care for his custom, as Mr. Bonner annoyed him so, compelling him to wait outside his office, or, perhaps, tell him to call again.

I did not think that he was leagued with Busby and Bruce until I saw his late letter. Further comment is unnecessary as the two letters will speak for themselves.

DR. DUNBAR AND THE FOOT OF THE HORSE.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—Having read with much interest that article in the last number of your valuable paper on the frog of the horse, by A. Dunbar, I think your readers should have been aware that the doctor was only raising objections, not giving even theoretical instructions. The latter he does not intend to do, until after his return from Europe. I mention this because I have been a pupil of the doctor, and because I think that some of your readers cannot understand why a man only objects without furnishing a remedy. It would be well could he be induced to give us a few more such articles. It would at least open a new channel for thought. He treated a horse for me lately that was bent in the knees, contracted, and had the scratches badly. I purchased him with these defects, with the intention of curing him, and in this way profiting by the investment, but not having time to attend to him myself, I placed him under the care of Roberge, and that "rolling motion shoe," for about five months, without any good result. After the doctor treated him once the scratches left him immediately; he became much straighter, and stood much more solid on his feet; but the change in his gait was surprising. The doctor's system has never been too highly spoken of. Those who can get the instruction, should, practically, before he leaves for Europe. None who do so can ever regret it. It gives one an advantage in buying, &c., as well as knowing how to take care of horses.

Respectfully, yours,

J. B. AYRES.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2, 1870.

AYRES ON DUNBAR AND ROBERGE.

MARCH 17, 1871.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—Some three or four months ago you published a card over my signature, in which I stated that Dunbar treated the feet of a knee-sprung horse

of mine, and that he not only made him apparently straighter in his legs, but cured him of the scratches. But as I now have a horse that has had the scratches for the last four months, and I have shod him on the Dunbar principle, as near as I understand it, I begin to think that it was not the shoeing that cured the other horse, and that it might possibly be previous treatment that cured him of the scratches as well as straightened his legs; at any rate he did not get so straight, but what I thought best to blister his legs and let him have a Winter's run. When I take him up I shall try Mr. Lee's system of shoeing, if he is in the city at the time. I tried the rolling-motion shoes but could not see any improvement in my horses. By what I have seen since, I am satisfied that, if I had kept on using them I should have liked them. In fact, I never disliked the shoes, but did dislike the bungling way they were put on by incompetent workmen.

I once thought that Dunbar knew more about the horse's foot than any man living, but I do not like the way he speaks of others who treat the feet of a horse. He says himself that the way he used to treat the foot in some cases, he finds now entirely wrong. This is an age of improvement; no one man can know it all. He may yet find that he has made other mistakes. I paid him for instruction when his ideas were new and crude, and as he now admits them to be erroneous, I feel that I have paid my money for something which I have not got; therefore I am dissatisfied. Can you blame me?

J. B. AYRES.

EXPLANATION OF THE LEE AND DUNBAR ARTICLE.

I again repeat it that I regret very much troubling my readers with such matters; but in order to retain the reputation I have made, it is necessary that I should do so in this way, as Robert Bonner claims the power, and we know that he boasts of having the ability, of controlling the Press.

When in his confidence he has often shown me correspondence wherein he has compelled proprietors of newspapers, editors &c., to take back, or alter statements to suit himself; and at one time compelled the President of the United States (not Grant) to contribute to his paper, or do as much. He also compelled Mr. Bancroft to change an article. I saw the correspondence. From this, I immediately inferred that it was Bonner who indited or inspired that editorial; causing me to ask who wrote the article. Besides, I was aware that he had met Busby and asked him to his office, when before this he would not have noticed him. This, Busby told me, and wondered at it, especially when we were writing against his hobby, the rolling motion shoe. I told Busby that if he would manage cunningly that he would have a good time, as Bonner did nothing straight-forward, and that there was "something in the wind;" not thinking it would turn upon myself, adding that, undoubtedly, Bonner wanted information of him about "Humphrey," He remarked that Bonner did not, at their interview, have much to say; asked him a few frivolous questions and turned the conversation upon me. He then swore Busby to secrecy, that he should not let me know that he asked him to seek a reconciliation, stating that he regretted the misunderstanding, and at the same time spoke in his usual kind way of me.

The Bruces spoke of him in such a way that had it been a few months sooner, I would not have listened to them; but now like the lady that was left by the railway cars, and outrun by a fellow traveler who was also left, she put her hand gently on his shoulder while he was pouring out curses and invectives on the locomotive, saying "Thank you, gentleman, thank you, these are exactly my sentiments."

I would differ less with them now than I did even then.

But to return to the editorial: I immediately knew that they had been bought over, and sent the following article as nearly as I can remember it, which was withheld from the public.

We give the Editorial also, that our readers may judge for themselves: since they, the Editors, have had the power, and used it, to expunge any parts of my letters that were too personal or uninteresting. I therefore objected to public criticism, without public hearing.

I had objected to writing for Wilkes' Spirit of the Times, some two years previously, on the grounds of incompetency; and it was only through an arrangement that they should expunge anything objectionable in my letters, that I consented to write, at their invitation, for the *Turf, Field and Farm.*

TREATMENT OF THE FOOT.

Mr. Albert Lee, a gentleman who has acquired wonderful skill in the treatment of the foot of the horse, has been in the city some days operating with great success. He came here from Boston to operate on the celebrated trotting horses, Danvers Boy and Billy Barr. Afterward he was introduced to Mr. Robert Bonner, and Mr. S. D. Bruce of this paper, who were favorably impressed with his system. Mr. Bonner liked it so well that he had him operate upon the feet of Joe Elliott, Dexter, Peerless, Pocahontas, and Edward Everett. The feet of all horses that have been driven much are more or less unsound, therefore if one has a scientific knowledge of the foot, and practical skill, he can readily restore the feet to a condition of perfect health. And no one requires to be told that when the feet of a horse are perfectly sound, the animal will exert himself more freely and get over the ground more rapidly. Mr. Lee was a pupil of Dunbar's six years ago, and while he uses a part of the Dunbar system, he has a great many ideas of his own; in fact, his is entirely a new system. He has an inquiring mind, and is frank to admit that he learns something every day. He is progressive and eclectic; that is, he combines with his practice the good of all systems. The practice of years has given him rare skill, and he operates boldly and with the greatest confidence. His practice is guided

by common sense, therefore it is convincing. Yesterday morning Mr. Lee held a reception at the stable of Mr. Walton, on Thirty-ninth street, and he won the honest admiration of all present. The subject provided for him had contraction in its worst form, and the horse could not move without betraying signs of pain. Among the gentlemen present were Mr. Van Ness, Mr. Tallman, Dr. Bryden, of Boston, Mr. Roberge, Mr. Walton, and others. The majority were inclined to be skeptical at first, but Mr. Lee performed his work so well, and showed such intricate knowledge of the foot, that skepticism was placed at a discount. He is a hard student, a student who bows to the great law of Nature ; and he makes common sense the basis of all science. He has operated upon a great many horses in Boston, where his skill is recognized, and himself held in high esteem. His treatment has been so satisfactory that great numbers of gentlemen are anxious to avail themselves of his skill. The horses that he has operated upon are doing well ; in fact they seem like new horses. Mr. Lee, to our own knowledge, has had to refuse numerous applications for his services, as business has called him from the city. But he will return to New-York in a few weeks, when we hope to see more of him and his system.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

Editors Turf, Field and Farm.—In your last number, you describe an operation performed by a Mr. Lee, who states that he was a pupil of mine six years ago. This I desire to correct, as I do not want such men classed among my pupils. To the best of my knowledge I never taught him. I did teach a person at Hornelsville, who owned a spotted stallion with feet much bruised, especially the hind ones. After having taught him, he drove me to the track, and there introduced me to Lee as his partner in the driving or training business. He paid me principally in counterfeits. The first place that I had occasion to use money, I offered a ten dollar bill of this same money to a person who detected the fraud. I said

I did not know the good from the bad. I then asked him to examine the balance of the money, two-thirds of which, he said, was counterfeit. I was on my way to Canada, and this person wrapped it up and labelled it, and it remained so until my return, some two months after. When I told the hotel-keeper with whom I stopped, that I meant to arrest the man for passing counterfeit bills, he advised me not to, as he, my pupil, was a dangerous character, but that he would help me, whereupon he took the numbers and description of the notes to see what could be done. The man refused to liquidate his indebtedness to me. I then said I would go to a justice. He called me back and said, he had not so much money, but would give me what he had, about two parts of the amount that he had paid me with counterfeits ; he asked for my address, promising to send me the balance, which he never did. As this was the only case in which I had any such trouble, I thought it a duty to my pupils to make them aware of the fact, and since that time I have been much more careful to whom I taught my system.

I am not at all jealous of Lee, as I do not consider him in competition with me. I met him some two years since in Syracuse. He then told me that he had been a pupil of mine and asked me for some information. From the manner in which he put his questions I suspected him. I said I did not remember teaching him. I am not good at remembering faces. I asked him what kind of a horse he had, as I sometimes remember a person better by the horse. He described the spotted one before mentioned. I remembered the counterfeit bills, and said "I never taught you." I should never have noticed the article had not his name been coupled with mine as my pupil.

Who wrote the article which says "Mr. Lee was a pupil of Dunbar's six years ago, and while he uses a part of the Dunbar system he has a great many ideas of his own, *in fact his is an entirely new system?*"

What logic! What reply would he get on applying for a patent, calling it "an entirely new system," when in the same paragraph acknowledging it "a part of an old system with a

great many new ideas." He would be told that his "entirely new system" was not patentable, as it had long since originated with one who knew how to apply it.

I cannot imagine how Dexter or any other of Mr. Bonner's horses required Lee's aid, for he always represented them, while I aided him, as flying under their feet, being in such good condition. He must be retrograding in knowledge instead of gaining, else what use would he have for Lee.

Remember his bombast when inflated with overweening conceit, in more than one article, when he replies to the Tribune in reference to the scrub beating Dexter, he says, "my system of shoeing," and again, "He knows more about the horse's foot than any man living" &c.*

He has learned too much; some men's sculls are like milk pans; there is danger of crowding too much in, and like the milk, especially when the weather is hot, the best runs over.

We think Bonner must have gotten a little too much "rolling motion" in his cranium, forcing the Dunbar system, like the cream, out.

*DEXTER—A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the N. Y. Tribune—

SIR:—I find the following statement in one of the leading editorials of your paper this morning:

Dexter was passed the other day in Harlem-lane, by a scrub roadster. It does not follow that Dexter's running days are over, or that the scrub roadster is a new Lady Flora."

This is a mistake. I have a stable of trotting horses which is by common consent without an equal in the world. Six or seven of their performances, as the record shows, are unrivalled. Dexter has trotted in public in 2:17¼; and I consider him a good deal better today than he was when he made that performance, especially his fore-feet, which, under my system of shoeing, have greatly expanded and improved. It is not true that he was passed in Harlem-lane or anywhere else. All the truth about my horses, I am quite willing should be published; in fact, I feel that I have a right to be just a little bit proud of it. But what has prompted anybody to publishing the absurd fabrications about them, to one of which you—of course, inadvertently—have given credence, I cannot imagine.

ROBERT BONNER.

We quote an extract—from a letter dated January 3, 1858—written by Mr. Bonner, in which he says "Mr. Dunbar is the only man, so far as I know, and I have studied every thing on the subject, who really understands the whole philosophy of the horse's foot. In my stable I have not one horse that is unsound; but before I became acquainted with Mr. Dunbar's system I parted with several lame horses, that if I had them now I could cure by adopting Mr. Dunbar's treatment."

A second supply of Lee, with a little heavier sunstroke, will drive the whole of mine, when, with all his vanity, he will have to apply to some one else, as the use of the rolling motion shoe made it necessary for him to resort to Lee. If Lee, as he says, is a pupil of mine, he has broken his obligations to me, and on the other hand, was a party to the counterfeit transaction ; as such, I thought it not right in me to allow him to impose upon my pupils, as they are gentlemen, and generally friends to one another, similar to those persons belonging to orders or societies.

This unpublished article was criticized in the following manner.

LEE AND DUNBAR—NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO.

Mr. Alexander Dunbar writes to inform us that we were in error in stating that Mr. Lee was a former pupil of his. Some one in the stable where Mr. Lee operated remarked to us while he was at work that he had been. It appears, however, that our informant was mistaken : but we cannot see what importance attaches to the point, as Mr. Lee does his work, as far as we understand, not only in a different, but in a very superior manner. It is quite likely whatever slight resemblance there may be between the two systems was equally original with both men, just as other inventions have been made contemporaneously with men in different part of the world.

But most or all that the public care about the matter is to know who can treat the horse's foot the best. On that point opinion here just now seems to be pretty much all one way ; and that in favor of Lee. It is a natural and almost inseparable characteristic of inventors to imagine that they have invented everything ; like the man out West who, when asked if he knew the Mississippi, exclaimed very indignantly : "Know the Mississippi ! why I made the Mississippi." We are a little surprised that a man of the intelligence for which

we have heretofore given Mr. Dunbar credit should be guilty of the bad taste, not to say impertinence, of inquiring of us who wrote our editorial of last week on the "Treatment of the Foot." We will answer his singular question, however, by the assurance that it was written by ourselves, after having seen Mr. Lee's operation on a horse belonging to one of the proprietors of this journal; and we believe the opinions therein expressed are fully concurred in by every one who has seen the two men operate on any horse. One advantage attributed to Mr. Lee's system is, that when applied to unsound horses, it does not interfere with their work, but you can go right on using them the same as usual, and without any interruption; while, when applied to sound horses, it is the best and easiest way to keep them sound. In Boston Mr. Lee's operations have been very numerous, and the commendations of his system in that city, as Dr. Bryden and other Bostonians assure us, are proportionately numerous; but then we judge for ourselves.

We do not refuse to publish anything from Mr. Dunbar pertinent to the subject, and written in decorous language; but in accordance with a rule pretty generally known, we desire to exclude personalities, between correspondents, from our columns.

I then went to New York and called at the office, handing Busby this article.

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—I now perfectly understand the uncalled for remarks in relation to myself in the two last articles of your paper.

Uncalled for, as you had my fullest confidence. Why did you not adjust the defects in that article you call the offensive one, as you have done in all others heretofore? How, under the circumstances, did you so forget yourself? If I did deserve to be rebuked, why not do it in a manner otherwise than giving it to the public, exposing and condemning me without a hearing.

So far was I from suspecting that it was you, that had not my eyes been opened by your last, I should have again

asked who wrote the article headed "Lee and Dunbar" so schemingly twisted into "No connection between the two," for certainly I never could have believed *you* the author, especially after conveying to me the confidence Mr. Bonner reposed in you, when feeling for a reconciliation with me. Why your allusion to "Mississippi?" Did I not say I was not at all jealous of Mr. Lee? I never taught him, though he told me himself in Syracuse, that I had; but on questioning him, he afterward confessed that the knowledge he had gotten of my system was through his partner whom I had taught. I told you my object in writing was, that I did not want my name coupled with his as my pupil, as I have, since teaching his partner, been more careful as to whom I taught my system.

Contrast your pretended friendship with this your unkind remark; "But most of all the public cares about the matter is, to know who can treat the horse the best." Now who among the spectators ever saw me operate upon a horse, that understood my system. Do I not operate every day before the public? but who of them is any wiser afterward unless he is taught my system. In what way could I preserve the secret of my system if spectators could understand it. You do not understand my system, yet you presumptuously remark; "We judge for ourselves." How could you judge, never having seen me operate. From what source did you get your knowledge of my system? Was there any other person there besides Mr. Bonner who had any knowledge of it, or ever saw me operate? And none understood better than yourself, Mr. Bonner's present feelings toward me, and his object in using Lee as an instrument to injure me.

There is not a man to whom I have taught my system but would tell you, if asked, that one of the first questions I ask when treating a horse is, whether he is wanted for present use, and if not, how long can he be spared; for I always vary the treatment in accordance with the wishes of the owner in relation to time. None understands this better than Mr. Bonner, and none would have defended me sooner (were it not his purpose now to injure me) had any person assailed me

as you have done. Circumstances having changed, it is not his interest to do so. Since he has bought Joe Elliott and his sire, it is no longer his purpose to decry Mountain Boy, but rather, on the contrary, to elevate him for his sire's sake ; besides, he too has changed owners.

Mr. Bonner fancying that he had acquired all the knowledge that I could impart, and his envy of Mountain Boy having ceased, together with our difference of opinion relative to the rolling motion shoe, and other little matters, the mask of friendship fell from his face. It only remains for him now to punish the Commodore for the very cutting expression, (the origin of his malice) that theirs "was only a road acquaintance."

Now neither Mr. Bonner, Mr. Lee, nor you, Mr. Editor, can cure a horse of contraction and continue working him. You might as well say that a door was open, when doubly locked and bolted. He can be helped, and that immediately, and improved in time, but you cannot cure him, if a bad case, without a weeks rest at least. (See Mr. Ayers on that point.)

Are you disposed to be just? If so, was there any more impertinence in my asking who wrote the editorial (that called a system an entirely new one, though in the very paragraph in which it was embodied, it was clearly acknowledged to be mine improved) than in the liberty you have taken with my name, you having the power to either suppress or expunge anything offensive or even uninteresting in the article, as you had thereunto done, or advised me of its defects.

There was nothing, I think, as personal or offensive in it as the language used in G. W. B's letters to me. Yet you printed them, wherein he called my patrons, those of the United States Army, *superannuated grannies* ;" gentlemen such as George Brown Esq. of Baltimore of the Banking Firm of Alexander Brown & Sons, and gentlemen all through the country of great executive ability, Railway Presidents &c., "*monied greenies* ;" the chief magistrate of the United States, President Grant, the "*old man at Washington* ;" and lastly, and least, of

course, myself, "*a spooney*. 'Tis true you rebuked him, but not without first publishing his article. Why this treatment then of me? Why make a scape-goat of me? Why such a cleansing process of your "sanctum" entirely at my expense?

I think some of your readers were favorably impressed with my articles. You must be aware of it from the number of letters addressed to me through your office; but from the sly cut you give about my former intelligence, they must labor under the impression that I have written something unfit to be read. Why not publish it and let *them* be the judges? I will be as willing to apologize to any of your readers or parties interested, if there is anything offensive or ungentlemanly, as I have been willing heretofore that you should expunge any parts from my articles that were neither proper nor interesting. On the other hand, I shall willingly bear the responsibility for anything personal that is just. I therefore most respectfully ask that my article be printed, as it should be, after such undue and premature criticism, in justice to your readers, as well as to myself.

When next you write an article derogatory to my system, or when testing Mr. Lee and his system as you call it, in my absence,contrasting and condemning mine by what you call his, please, if possible, have Mr. Thorne, Mr. Ayres, Mr. William Andrews, Mr. Packer, Mr. Hall, or almost any other gentlemen whom I have taught, present, and report what *they* say, instead of giving *your* opinion without the requisite knowledge. You know right well that I have often told you that, though Mr. Bonner understood the anatomy of the horse's foot, that he was not equal either to Mr. Ayers or Mr. Andrews; Mr. Bonner not having as good an eye to form, and no artistic or mechanical genius. On the contrary with the other two gentlemen mentioned, Mr. Ayers having followed a broad-axe in his time, and Mr. Andrews being a successful inventor and manufacturer, and if I have been rightly informed, at present worth millions; their practical, with their superior, natural ability, gives them the advantage.

I set great value upon the letters and printed articles of Mr. Bonner, and have not forgotten the very flattering way he used to speak of my ability, before he was sick, when slightly assailed by sun-stroke, but his writings, sayings and doings, since then, I do not care much about.

What a pity you did not think of the question you put to G. W. B. when writing your last two editorials. "How much *do I* know about the "Dunbar system," or of what force is my opinion without any knowledge of it against the large number of gentlemen of ability who have endorsed him." And again "Dr. Bryden from Boston."

"But then we judge for ourselves." Contrast the judgment of Dr. Bryden with your own, against all those gentlemen who have knowingly endorsed my system for years; both of you being entirely ignorant of it; what an awkward position you have placed yourselves in.

Why should Dr. Bryden's opinion of my system be of any more value than that of any other person with the same amount of natural ability, and acquired knowledge of my system, whatever his calling. Does the number of gentlemen you mentioned, who witnessed Mr. Lee's operation, justify you in stating that public opinion in New York was in favor of Mr. Lee and against *me*? But then you say "we judge for ourselves!" Can you see no impertinence in such *bombast*? You shoulder the responsibility of disposing of me and of my system. *I did not expect it.* You say, "Mr. Lee does his work, as far as we can understand, not only in a different, but in a very superior manner." How do you know, when you never saw me operate on a horse in your life?

Again:—"One advantage attributed to Mr. Lee's system is, that when applied to unsound horses it does not interfere with their work." Now I answer the whole of your statements in a word. You cannot cure a horse of contraction and keep him to work; that is, as a road horse.

Although I have not made the "Mississippi," I do know that, with all the knowledge Mr. Bonner has, besides what he

gave Roberge, Lee & Co., your knowledge included, the whole of you combined cannot cure a horse thoroughly of contraction, and continue working him, with either comfort to him or profit to his owner ; besides, in the end there is much more time wasted. Those who have made such statements have much yet to learn."

The above article, he said he did not like to publish, but if I would write a more moderate one, he would print it, stating that he would make the matter all right relative to the other articles, and I was to call at his house that night if I could not remain until office hours the next day, and that if I would give him copies of two letters, one from the Hon. R. Stockett Matthews, and the other from Mr. George Brown, of the firm of Alexander Brown & Sons, Bankers, of Baltimore, he would print them and make the past difficulty all right. After having written my views in a modified form, I read it to Mr. Busby, who said it was an excellent letter and he would print it. He also begged me to continue writing,which I promised to do.

So pleased was I with these promises that at their request I remained the next day, and wrote the following article on "Joint Oil"—for Videx—at his request.

WHAT IS JOINT OIL?

Editors Turf, Field and Farm.—In an article written by Mr. David McCauliff, head blacksmith in the Quartermaster's shoeing department, under the heading "Dunbar in the President's Stable," relative to the celebrated war-horse Cincinnati, I wish to have your opinion on the nature of what is termed "joint oil."

Is there not as much error about this ingredient as there is about the treatment of the hoof?

I have seen many horses with stiff joints, and I have no doubt many cases accrue from the authorized methods of treatment—blistering, &c., while the parts are inflamed.

In the case of the President's horse, this course was pursued almost unto the death. When I saw him I sent for the veterinary-surgeon, as I wanted to consult with him, but he happened to be attending to some call; I tried to detain the President, as I feel well-disposed toward the doctor.

President Grant, after waiting some time, said:

"Do as you think best; do as you like. Why wait any longer?"

I then directed Mr. Richard Curtin, the President's managing man, who is both expert and capable in the management of horses, to lance it. On doing so, the matter spirted against the wall; the horse being thus relieved, ceased to be restless.

In a few minutes after, the doctor came. I explained; he said:

"I am sorry you lanced him."

I asked: "Why?"

"Because he is losing the joint oil, and you will destroy the horse."

"Are you not mistaken, doctor? that is not joint oil; but if it is, there is a great quantity of it. Pray, where is it kept? There must be a large reservoir for holding it in some part of the horse. If so, where is it?"

He still thought it was joint oil.

"Well," I said "suppose that it was, in such cases what were you going to do with it? How could you dispose of it when so deranged, and in such quantities? By what process could you restore it to its original place and proper functions?"

He would not or could not tell. I then asked him if his treatment (blistering) would not have the effect of sweating out the thinnest part of the matter he called joint oil, leaving the thickest, that part that could not so easily escape, to form a sediment, and in time a callous, and when ossified, like rust upon a hinge, destroy the joint?

The horse's defect I think was caused by striking the hind pastern joint with the opposite foot. He had, by some

means injured the front foot over the inside coronet, which made him lame, and in striving to get up in his stall, struck the other at the top of sesemoid bones, where the tendons passed over.

Richard lanced it in four different places, and took from it cords of pus, almost stiff from the effects of the blister. The horse when I left was doing well; he was quite easy, the swelling much reduced in the leg, and I think, with the good care he is sure to get, will become entirely well. Yet I may be mistaken, for the disease is in a very complicated place.

Will you please give your opinion as to what you think the nature of this matter styled joint oil, the source from which it is produced, and what you think is the best means of disposing of it when thus deranged, and whether you think it possible to ever fully restore a joint, if it really leaked the quantities drawn from such diseased parts, erroneously in my opinion, called joint oil. ALEX. DUNBAR.

"In giving the particulars of his operation on the horse of President Grant, suffering from a swollen knee, Mr. Dunbar asks us some questions that we are not prepared to answer. It is our opinion, however, that what is called "joint oil" is more of a bugbear than a fact. And as the operation of Mr. Dunbar brought relief to the suffering animal without causing permanent injury, our opinion on the subject is strengthened. But this question is one for the doctors. Let them do the writing and we will do the printing."—*Editors, Turf, Field and Farm.*

After all this, on reflection, I was suspicious, and asked Busby if he would not have to call on Bonner before he could fulfill such promises. He replied laughingly, that he "would be obliged to" and asked me if he should mention the subject of reconciliation; I said, he might do as he liked.

I left for Philadelphia believing them satisfied with the moderate article, and *that*, with the two letters printed, would

satisfy *myself* at least. My faith in them having been again established, I purchased and had labelled several papers to send to my friends before examining any of them, when to my surprise there were no letters printed, but instead, an Editorial criticising my article which we will reprint below, with the two letters purporting to have been written in Baltimore, of the *Ledger* stamp, letters that I have no doubt had been written in the New York *Ledger* Office, entitled, "Baltimore letters of inquiry."

Those who have witnessed his malice in connection with the late increased speed of "Goldsmith Maid" and "Lucy," and the power he has shown in controlling the press of New York, can more readily understand his treatment of me. The "Maid" has since sustained her ability, and her distinguished driver, his integrity.

LEE AND DUNBAR—HEAR BOTH SIDES.

By the following letter it will be seen that Mr. Dunbar writes in a more respectful manner, and therefore we publish his communication:

EDITORS TURF, FIELD AND FARM.—I think you must have mistaken the spirit of my letter, as I had no other feeling toward Mr. Lee than to place him in his proper relationship to my other pupils. You know that I have always been careful to whom I taught my system, at least since I taught Lee's partner, the man from whom he got whatever knowledge he has, of my system.

Had I taught him, as he says, he would in that case have broken his obligations. I told him this when he attempted to pawn himself on me in Syracuse, as my pupil two or three years since. I detected, to use a very mild word, the error, through his asking me questions.

He said he was introducing the Tyrrel shoe; he opened a shop in Philadelphia; there you could get a knowledge of

his merits : he wanted information from me on some points ; a few of his questions I answered before my memory served me.

Under these circumstances I thought it my duty to you as well as to my patrons, to notify you of my transaction with them.

I told you I was not at all jealous of Mr. Lee, for I am myself a progressive man ; and in fact I practice very little now of what I taught at the time Mr. Lee got a look behind, and what, I think, appeared new to you was old to me.

In fact my discussion with G. W. B. has done me a great deal of good. I was not capable of putting the questions then, that remains at present unanswered, relative to the laminæ or dove-tailing in the changes of the hoof through malformation, together with the raising of the sole commensurately with the growth of the wall from the coronet. I vary my instructions since then, very much to the advantage of the pupil.

In Baltimore there is another person treating the foot, after the manner I used to do eight or ten years ago. He uses the saw ; he saw me treat a horse in Brantford City, Canada. I used then to score the wall on the sides, if of the bell-hoof form, that is, if the horse could be turned out. The shoe was beveled out at the sides, and only nailed at the toe and point of the heel ; the shoe he never saw else. This shoe is in your office now with four others, for which I got five prizes at the Provincial Exhibition in 1861, at Toronto.

I found the grooves, when left exposed to the air, caused the laminæ to change to hoof, leaving seams inside similar to those left by sand or quarter cracks ; and, besides, I have learned since that I could do, by other means, in a few weeks, more than I could do by that, at best, in a year.

There is this difference between the two men. The first claims me as his instructor through policy, no doubt ; the other denounces me. He is a great talker, though ; but was very ingeniously trapped by a gentleman who, hearing him

boast of his unlimited knowledge, both practically and theoretically, questioned him relative to the merits of some ancient authors. He mentioned a number of Greek words that had no connection with veterinary science except in the imagination of the gentlemen. He was thoroughly acquainted with them all. The result with such gentlemen was obvious.

He does business to the notes of a band, with an omnibus and a string of old horses and mules, I was told, nineteen in procession, single file. Each night he enlightens the crowd by a lecture—those who remain and listen. The principal part is the denouncing of Professors Pratt and Scott, the horse educators—men who are very industrious and successful.

Gentlemen in Baltimore that know me, know that I do not envy this man. Why should I? There is plenty of room and plenty of diseased feet. While I do not recognize this man, on account of some uncalled for and ill-timed remarks prejudicial to me, I have taken the greater pleasure in introducing Dr. Coleman, now of Baltimore, to my patrons, and to whom, so far, he has given general satisfaction.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I trust you will qualify your two last editorials, in which you have arraigned me. As I understand it, there was but one gentleman who witnessed Mr. Lee's operations, who ever saw me operate on, or treat, a horse's foot; you never have; therefore I think it unfortunate that you spoke so inconsiderately. All hail to any honorable man that surpasses me. Give me justice; I ask no more.

A. DUNBAR.

Mr. Dunbar is mistaken when he states that but one gentlemen who has ever seen him operate on a horse's foot witnessed Mr. Lee's "operations" in this city. We learn upon inquiry that not only several gentlemen who once employed Mr. Dunbar to superintend the shoeing of their horses and paid him his fees for instruction, but others who have seen him operate in more than one blacksmith shop, have been repeatedly present while Mr. Lee was opening feet; and that

they prefer Mr. Lee's system to Mr. Dunbar's is evident not merely from what they say, but from the fact that, notwithstanding they know all about Mr. Dunbar's system, (or at least all he pretended to teach,) they have now paid Mr. Lee to operate on their own horses. These are facts, and we cannot "qualify" or suppress them to oblige Mr. Dunbar or any one else. We have not written a line on this subject "inconsiderately," and consequently have nothing to take back. Public opinion, as we remarked last week, is unmistakably all one way here just now, and that is in favor of Lee's method of treating the foot. And as for "giving" Mr. Dunbar "justice" our readers know that we have always done ample justice to the discovery that he has made, so far as we understood it, just as we endeavored last week to do justice to Mr. Lee's system, so far as we understood his improvement. But if Mr. Dunbar means that in order to do him "justice" we must ignore all other improvements in treating the foot, he asks a little too much. We do not think that any man can assume that his present knowledge of any subject comprises all that can possibly be known about it. Mr. Dunbar himself virtually admits this when he confesses that he can now do in a few weeks what it used to take him a year to accomplish, and that he has abandoned modes of treatment which he once thought highly of. May he not hereafter abandon some of the modes which he *now* practices? But we print his letter, and if Mr. Lee has anything to say in reply to it, our columns are equally open to him.—*Editors, Turf, Field and Farm.*

THE TURF, FIELD AND FARM, March 10th, 1871, in "Answer to Correspondents," says:

P. W., BALTIMORE.—Mr. Lee has no patented shoe of his own. He believes that the Tyrrel shoe is good for some horses, and that the rolling motion is the best for others, while he shoes many with the plain, common shoe. As we said in our first notice of his treatment of the foot, he is progressive and eclectic; that is, he combines with his practice the good of all systems. We learn from those who have

seen both men operate that while he and Dunbar use the saw on the heel, Lee only uses it to make an incision, while Dunbar uses it differently. Lee does not cut a piece out of the heel, and lower the quarter. On the contrary, he leaves the quarters full and strong. He has several instruments which he has made himself, and the like of which we have never seen in any blacksmith's shop or elsewhere, and these he uses to pull down the thick, morbid growth of sole, which, in nearly every contracted hoof, presses up into the interior of the foot. He then expands the foot with a screw. We do not pretend that this is a full and accurate description of Mr. Lee's mode of giving relief to a diseased foot, but rather a brief statement of what we understand of it. Mr. Lee is willing to let everybody see him operate. He has no secrets.

BALTIMORE—Is informed that the Rolling-motion Shoe, which is patented by David Roberge, has a curve at the toe, at which point it somewhat resembles an old worn-out shoe. From the toe to the heel it is gradually elevated, so that when the horse lifts his foot he can do so without effort. This is what Mr. Roberge claims for it ; but it is not all that he claims. Mr. Tallman, the Superintendent of Fleetwood Park, says it is the best shoe he ever used.

You cannot imagine my disappointment in not finding my letters; I found instead, a full column, advertising the *Ledger*. I then knew they had been bought over by Mr. Bonner, for he used to blame me for writing for that "penny whistle of a newspaper, the *Turf, Field and Farm*," and then I knew there was a double meaning to the advertisement, as well as a fulfillment of a statement I had made to Busby on the day he first met Bonner, that if he managed well he would get a long advertisement out of him of the *Ledger*.

In my second article to Mr. Busby, you will observe that my confidence in Mr. Ayers was so strong that I often referred to him, but he too had been forced to falsify, hence his last letter.

I can see Bonner chuckling over his victory, I mean over Ayers and Bruce, for he has got none over me, neither will he if I can prevent it. But he shows his Irish nature more in rejoicing over a tortured victim than in anything else; like the Hibernian washer-woman; she may have a thousand pets and among all their gambols and innocent amusements, nothing pleases her so well as to see them fight or torture one another, and in her demoniac glee she resembles Bonner exactly, in the chuckling laugh, the writhing gestures and struggling words, in Irish parlance known as the Jackeen's.

Could others see him rejoice, as I have done, over the crafty intriguing, and the power his money gives him, not only with the press of the country generally, but over men distinguished in politics, eminent divines, &c., they could better form a correct judgment of his true character.

Busby repeated what Mr. Bonner had said of me in their office, while conspiring with them against me, declaring I should be silenced or put down, at the same time, chiding them for their former ignorance of my knowledge, in the following language.—"What you know of him now, I knew five years ago; that he knows *more* about the horse generally than any man *now* living, or that ever has lived."

'Tis true, he did all he could toward arranging my contract with the government against the ignorance and obstinacy of Stanton and Meigs; but what of that; did I not deserve it? and he was only one among the others who understood my system, and knew it would be of inestimable value to the service.

Had not my system been good, had I not succeeded with the horses General Meigs gave me to cure as a test, all recommendations, even after Congress had passed the act authorizing the contract, would have been of no avail; (See Meigs' Letter;) besides, Mr. Bonner often told me I would not get it, and had ceased assisting me through being discouraged. (See his Letter advising me to go to Europe.)

And, too, his services were due me from the fact that I had increased the value of his horses fully one hundred

thousand dollars, besides teaching him what I then knew of my system, and giving him the notoriety now accredited to him ; that is, before " Goldsmith Maid " snatched the prestige from him.

Mr. Wm. Andrews paid me much more in money for instruction than ever he did, and while I never asked of him a favor that Shakspeare's Jew would not have given his bitterest enemy, I get in return, this treatment, in which the Bruces, Busby, Ayers and Lee, are made the Instruments of his vengeance. He has often advised me to use men as *he* does, whatever their position, simply as instruments to my own advancement.

From this one may judge it is not piety, but policy that prevents him testing his horses in public, *for a purse*. We have often conversed together over the stretch of conscience it would require in a moral teacher and church-member, to *thus* develop the full powers of his horse.

While reasoning upon the subject I have contrasted the purse offered in competition with well-bred undeveloped horses, with that of prizes offered to children in Sabbath Schools. He coincided with me in that there was no real wrong in simply striving for a purse or prize ; but as a moral teacher, such as he sets himself up to be, he dares not throw off the cloak or mask ; but there is another feature in his business that would compare less favorably with trotting horses, which is, the creating of fictitious characters in his paper, under the Heading, " Answers to Correspondents."

God knows there is less occasion for conscientious scruples, in permitting a horse to earn for himself a record, by trotting in public, than there is in creating such characters as " Boston" and others, to be found in those columns.

There are enough bad characters in reality in this country, without creating fictitious ones ; and the man who will, for the sake of gain, originate as realities the very worst that the imagination can conceive, and send them broad cast throughout the whole country, his piety should not stand in the way of a noble animal, that really commands more respect than his owner.

CHAPTER XIII.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM L. M. HOYT, TO GEORGE LOBDELL.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, May 12th, 1871.

MR. GEORGE LOBDELL,

DEAR SIR:—

As you delegated me to visit New York, for the purpose of witnessing Dr. Albert Lee's operation on the horse's foot, I feel it my duty to render you a written report of what I saw and heard, relative to the subject, while there.

I first called at the office of S. D. & B. G. Bruce, Editors of the "Turf, Field and Farm," with my letter of introduction from you to Col. S. D. Bruce, thinking he could give me much information regarding Mr. Lee, as I had seen several articles in the Editorial Columns of his paper, strongly endorsing Lee, and denouncing Mr. Dunbar.

The Col. being absent, I handed my letter to his partner, Benjamin, who, in a few words gave me his opinion, stating that Mr. Lee's operations were simple, gave satisfaction, and that he did not object to explaining his "modus operandi" to spectators; and in reply to my question as to whether he considered Lee as proficient in the art as Mr. Dunbar, replied in the affirmative; at the same time stating, that there were many points regarding the anatomy and physiology of the horse, that he (Bruce,) and Mr. Dunbar did not agree upon.

Bruce here remarked that he understood human anatomy, had read medicine &c., and this, he claimed, enabled him to understand, quite well, the anatomy of the horse.

From this statement, and his connection with a paper which I had heretofore considered good authority on any question pertaining to the horse, I inferred that he must have more than ordinary knowledge of the subject.

But a few moments conversation and a few pointed questions regarding human and equine anatomy, especially the foot of the latter, coupled

with his evasive replies, convinced me that his knowledge of the subject was too superficial to be practical.

I asked him what knowledge he had of the Dunbar system, whether he had ever been taught or witnessed an operation under his supervision; to which he replied, he had not.

At this juncture, Mr. Busby, the literary editor of the Turf, Field and Farm, came in, to whom I was introduced.

He made no effort to impress me with the idea that *he* understood anatomy and physiology, and had a smattering of medicine, but simply stated that he had witnessed Lee's operations, yet his knowledge of the horse, and descriptive powers, were too limited to enable him to render an accurate account.

However, he gave me a letter of introduction to Mr. Lee.

I then visited Dan Mace's shoeing establishment, where I found Mr. Lee operating upon horse's feet.

Mr. Busby's letter gained me his full confidence, and he took some pains to explain to me what he knew on the subject.

His method of treatment would appear very ingenious to those who do not understand the anatomy of the foot.

The use of the many little implements, which he uses about the sole and frog, mean, simply, *nothing*.

After Mr. Dunbar's treatment of a foot, there would be nothing left for Mr. Lee and his implements to work upon.

His knowledge of the interior of the horse's foot is as limited as that of many of the spectators, who daily witness the application of the Dunbar system in David Woolman's shoeing establishment.

I next visited Mr. Roberge, the patentee of the "Rolling Motion" Shoe, with the intention of purchasing a set.

From the glowing description which I had read in the "Turf, Field and Farm," I expected to see a large establishment, and flourishing business; but instead, found them doing comparatively nothing, only one man and the proprietor, being about. The former like "patience on a monument smiling at grief," sat, perched upon an anvil, with his feet on the forge, smoking a short stemmed pipe, while the latter, in his effort to describe the utility of his shoe, drew forth my sympathy, and I ceased to question him.

The result of my investigation proved conclusively to me, that I had no use for his shoe.

Notwithstanding all that has been said by the "Turf, Field and Farm" about public opinion in New York being so favorable to those two

men, Lee and Roberge, I found on the contrary, Roberge doing comparatively nothing, while Lee, on my second call at Mace's Shop, I found working at the anvil.

It does not seem possible, that in a large city like New York, where public opinion, as represented by the "Turf, Field and Farm," is so favorable to those men, that the one should be doing comparatively nothing, and the other squandering a portion of his valuable time at the anvil.

While in conversation with Lee, just previously to my departure, he stated that he had worked in Philadelphia, and had operated upon horses, for certain parties while there.

On my way home I stopped in that city long enough to learn the truth of his assertion, getting my information from a very reliable source.

I learned that he had operated upon several horses while there, but with not the slightest degree of success.

Owing to his inability to accomplish what he professed, and the evil results that followed, his manner of operating was quite severely denounced.

I also learned that he had applied for admission to the Veterinary College of that city, but was rejected, whether from incompetency or otherwise, I know not.

I believe incompetency disqualifies and denies an applicant the right of admission to the Institution.

The result of my trip is simply this. It has shown me conclusively, that neither Lee, Roberge, or Bruce, has that knowledge of the horse, which I had heretofore been led to believe, (by various articles in the "Turf, Field and Farm,") they possessed, and compared with the pupils of Mr. Dunbar, in this city, their views on the subject are yet in an embryotic state, and I think I may safely add, the result of bad conception.

I am convinced that there is not a pupil of Mr. Dunbar's in this city, but what has a more thorough and practical knowledge of the anatomy and structure of the horse's foot, than either of the trio above named, which, doubtless, arises from the fact, that his pupils in New York have not had the full benefit of his late experience.—You remember his remarks on that point, while teaching. And, admitting this fact, judge for yourself of their relative merits, when compared with Mr. Dunbar; a gentleman, in my opinion, far their superior.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

L. M. HOYT

Wilmington, Delaware.

LETTER FROM B. G. BRUCE.

OFFICE OF THE "TURF, FIELD, AND FARM,"
37 PARK ROW, NEW YORK.

MR. MATTHEW DAWSON, *Heath House, New Market, England.*

DEAR SIR:

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance, Mr. Alexander Dunbar, of Woodstock, Canada, who visits England to bring before the English racing public, his system and mode of treating the diseases of the horse's foot. Mr. Dunbar has made some wonderful cures in America, and it is well worth your time to examine into his mode of treating and operating for contracted feet.

Very truly yours,

B. G. BRUCE.

LETTER FROM B. G. BRUCE.

OFFICE OF THE "TURF FIELD AND FARM,"
37 PARK ROW, NEW YORK.

DEAR SIR:

This will introduce to your acquaintance Mr. Alexander Dunbar, of Woodstock, Canada, who visits England, to introduce his system of treating the diseases of the horse's foot. He is the same gentleman whom I mentioned to you in one of my trips to New Market.

If you have a horse with bad or contracted feet, I hope you will permit Mr. Dunbar to operate on him.

He has performed come wonderful cures in this Country, and his system is well worthy the highest consideration from your turfmen.

Very truly yours,

B. G. BRUCE.

MR. J. B. PRYOR,

Chesterfield House, New Market, England.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM D. ANDREWS AND BRO.

OFFICE OF WILLIAM D. ANDREWS AND BRO.
414 WATER STREET, NEW YORK, June 2nd, 1868.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR, ESQ.,

DEAR SIR:

In answer to your inquiries as to how our horses are doing, we have to say that Eva is still somewhat lame, but is improving, and more since the last shoeing than before.

Oscillator was a very bad case and given up as incurable by Dr. Pilgrina, but he is certainly better, and we hope, in due time, to see him trotting as fast as ever. Bashaw appears to be better than for years, and we believe we can pronounce him perfectly cured.

The black mare Kate, our business animal, was given up as worthless by several Veterinary Surgeons, and when you first operated upon her, we never expected her to be of any further service to us: she was lame and sore all over, thin in flesh, tucked up, and entirely out of condition. After the first shoeing we laid her up two or three days and poulticed her thoroughly, since which time (some three months) she has been regularly driven to our business wagon. Has steadily improved in spirits, appearance and flesh, can travel at double the speed without showing lameness. While we do not consider her entirely sound, it evidently requires only time and a continuance of the treatment to make her so. As she had been out of fix for several years, we consider her present condition as the most positive proof of the great benefits from your system of treatment. After a continuance of the treatment for a proper length of time upon Eva and Oscillator, we confidently expect to be able to make a similar report in their cases, which it will give us much pleasure to do.

Very respectfully yours,

WM. D. ANDREWS & BRO.

P.S.—We forgot to mention (as we believe however we did do verbally) that the black mare Kate had been treated for disease of the spine, splints, and bone spavin, from all which complaints your shoeing has relieved her.

WM. D. ANDREWS & BRO.

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR.—This mare was treated by Professor Colman, of Wilkes' *Spirit,* and Morgan for bone-spavin. The operation was the neatest I ever saw, she had no more bone-spavin, though, then the anvil on which the iron was forged, that she was so neatly fired with.

LETTER FROM R. STOCKETT MATTHEWS.

MY DEAR SIR:

Your favor of the 20th inst. was duly received, and would have been earlier answered, had I not thought it advisable to wait for the return of Mr. Dunbar, about whom your inquiries have been made, so that I might learn from him, whether or not, his limited time will permit him to receive new pupils, prior to his departure for Europe. He has been here for a few days, visiting among his former scholars, designing to leave during the week for Canada, and as he will communicate directly

with you, it is unnecessary for me to say anything about his engagements. If you are so fortunate as to induce him to run out to your place for a day or two, you will have ample cause to be grateful to him for imparting to you the details of a method of shoeing your horses, which is so far superior to, and in advance of, all other modes of treatment which have come under my notice, that it alone seems to be founded upon accurate observation, and reasonable principles. You ask me to give you some expression of my estimate of this system, which is now usually known as the "Dunbar system" of managing the horse's foot, and I cheerfully comply with your request.

While I am restrained from entering into full explanation and description of its modes of operation, by my obligation to its inventor, I can still point out to you in general terms, its leading characteristics, and its eminent merits. It possesses this marked difference from all others with which I have been conversant. Its object is two fold; first to keep sound feet in their prime condition; and second, to reform the altered structures of diseased feet, and restore them to normal properties of symmetry and usefulness. It may be added with the utmost emphasis, that the practice is equally efficacious in accomplishing both these results. And, although most persons resort to its pathology for the purpose of curing lameness and disease, there are some who apply its instruction to the prevention of all forms of evil which arise from the domestication and improper use of man's best servant.

The foot of the horse is a very simple, and very beautiful, exhibition of nature's handiwork. Its chief parts are few in number, and invariably adapted, as all nature's mechanism is, to the uses for which they are designed.

It is the basis of the anatomy of the horse, and has quite as much to do with his energy, activity and health, as the vital organs, or the spine, or the brain. A bad foot may be fit for some kinds of slow service, but no horse can be truly valuable, or equal to his highest efforts, with the pedal extremeties in a chronic state of irritation, soreness, and altered structure. And although in some extreme instances of peculiar and obscure causes of lameness, a really skillful veterinarian might open the "box" which contains the internal portions, and operate with the knife, and probably with caustics upon the seats of local mischief, yet in the vast majority of subjects, the manipulations must be external, and the operations be pursued from the bottom, upward, toward the coronet, and without penetrating either wall or sole. To relieve soreness, to ensure expansion of contracted walls on the ground surface, to produce the growth of an elastic and perfect frog, to widen out the quarters at the coronary band, behind, to induce the wall to grow down, with a uniform and right angle of inclination to the ground

surface, to secure absolute unity between the external wall and the internal, and to promote sweet and pure secretion throughout the various functions of the internal cartilages and members, where these are needed, should be the objective points of all scientific treatment of the foot. But these are not attained by any practitioner or farrier, or taught by any writer, with any certainty of success, Mr. Dunbar alone being excepted.

The Veterinarian usually prescribes strong counter-irritants, most usually perilous preparations of iodine and mercury, with a "month's run at grass" for every sort of "used up pin."

Sometimes when the phantom *disease*, so much dreaded by the ignorance of empiricism, and so much burdened with its sins too, and so very infrequent as to be almost unknown to the majority of horsemen, makes its halting appearance, and the punitory foot is cursed with the baptism of "navicular disease," the desperate practitioner will resort to the firing iron, and corrugate the coronet from heel to heel, with callous ridges, and then, perhaps, introduce a seton across the quaters, and terminate his therapeutics with strong doses of physic, and maddening blisters on the offending leg.

When there is already a super-abundance of pain and inflammation, the veterinarian thinks it his truest practice to intensify every aching nerve and agonizing tissue, still more, and as the foot has already proven impotent to accommodate itself to inflammation, it is given a trial of adapting itself to worse fevers, and keener pain, produced by the ban of the physician, whose duty it was to soothe and remove those already existing.

Now it is one of Mr. Dunbar's rules, to first allay pain by proper treatment, and when inflammation has subsided within the foot, through proper embrocations, and stopping and baths, then to operate upon the foot itself, with the farrier's knife, and give "ample verge and room enough" for the pedal and navicular bones, the tendons and the interior processes to arrange themselves in their proper relations to each other, without the sense of crowding, if I may use such a figurative expression.

You must remember that the pedal bone, usually called the coffin bone, is intended to rest with just such an adequate bearing, and no other upon the sole; the wall of the hoof is intended to slope in a due angle of inclination from the coronet, and the heels ought, no matter what the shape of the foot, to be sufficiently wide, so as to give easy buoyancy to the back tendons, and expansibility and elasticity to the frog.

Nor should the wings of the pedal bone be infringed upon by the walls. That most important part of the internal structure should not be a "prisoner in bonds." It is shut up within the wall, but it should have freedom for natural play, and its delicate wings should not be pressed upon by the surrounding wall.

Certainly, a system that makes these prominent essentials of soundness patent to laymen, and impresses intelligent gentlemen with confidence in their ability to direct the farrier, as well in the cutting and paring, as in the forging or fitting iron for either good or bad feet, deserves the highest commendation.

I have read every book on the subject upon which I could lay my hands, have ransacked our stores, and have sent to Europe for the best treatises of the English and French schools. "*Miles on the Horse's Foot*," and "*Carson's letters to the Londonderry Standard*," heretofore appeared to me to contain the most sensible and practical instructions. But even these authors, neither of them a veterinarian, fall far short of the extent and accuracy of Mr. Dunbar's discoveries. He does not confine himself to one set of formulas, but varies his rules and proceedings, according to the form of the foot, its stamina of shell and sole, and its status of disorder.

Let me illustrate my meaning by recalling to your memory the various types of long, flat, low, high, narrow, broad, strong, weak, contracted, mule-shaped, pumiced, quarter-cracked, or bell-formed feet, which one by one have come under your eye, from time to time. It must be apparent to you, that while the innovating system may teach you how to deal with the infirmities of each and all of these forms, it must be done by diversity of handling. Each shape will indicate the needful mode appropriate to itself.

Horses with bad "sprung knees," and horses grievously "knuckled," are as easily cured, under ordinary circumstances as those with quarter-cracks, or a sole "let down," as the nomenclature of the stable terms it.

Thrush, grease and scratches, are, as you very well know, mere effects of local causes, and those causes almost invariably reside inside the foot. I do not pretend to say that there may not be distempers of the blood which may produce cutaneous eruptions about the heels, but I am quite sure that grease and scratches are not of such a parentage, and they are never independent maladies.

I think I have said enough to assure you of the entire absence of empiricism in Mr. Dunbar's teaching. He claims it to be scientific, although founded exclusively upon his personal experience and practice; and I agree with him.

I employ the word scientific in its generic sense; as descriptive of a system built upon observation and experiment, whose general principles are, by induction, resolved into methodical statements capable of being recognized and acted upon by others as true and certain. Experiments have led him to the discrimination of plain, simple elements of causation of lameness, and of a few corresponding arts of treatment, and these he combines and varies according to the exigencies of each immediate case.

He has the wisdom and good taste to avoid the pretense and puffery which usually herald inventions, meritorious or otherwise, to the world.

If he could do like Helmbold with his "Buchu," or Bonner with his "Ledger," he might make a large fortune in a short time. But "*festina lente*" has been his motto, and he will be better satisfied, as far as he is concerned, to earn without quackery, a moderate competency, rather than to acquire the affluence of a millionaire by wholesale advertising and "tricks of trade."

Besides, he is still a pupil to himself: What he has already acquired, has given him a vantage ground for further advances, and by constant use of his fine faculties of observation, and his rare capacity for generalization, he is daily compressing his knowledge into clearer and broader theories, and nicer and simpler practice.

But there is one point of view from which the world at large has a right to regard Mr. Dunbar, and to demand an equivalent for what nature has given him.

No man, whether he can or not, ought to live for himself alone. Every great discovery should redound to the benefit of universal humanity. Intellect is our noblest quality, and the happy possessor of shining qualities of mind should strive to convert them into blessings for his race. Whether inventions leap into the mind, the spontaneous suggestion of some single incident, or whether they are wrought out by long and patient thought and toil, no matter how, or under what circumstances of poverty, privation or heroic endurance and labor great facts or grand truths or splendid motors in the civilization of the age are brought to light, mankind should have an usufructuary interest in them at least. The happy or unhappy discoverer ought to be rewarded of course; but he should appreciate his duty to his time and his people, and throw open the results of his work and wit to their use and enjoyment.

And so I have said to Mr. Dunbar, and have sought to persuade him to reduce his system, most elaborately and conscientiously, to writing, so that it may sooner or later be made public. And this he has promised me to do, as soon as he gets through his contemplated tour of the European Courts.

I am so very fond of horses, so disgusted with the ungraduated impostures of the Veterinarian, and so impatient of the rude bungling and obstinacy of farriers, that it gives me great pleasure to think that the four-footed servants of the next generation will have wiser and more humane treatment at the hands of their owners and employers.

You know something of my attachment for my bay filly, "Queen Mab," and how I used to grieve over her occasional lameness, and her slowly but surely contracting hoofs, both before and behind. *Bien Monsieur! nous avons changè tout cela.* My satin-coated favorite goes like the wind. No tender minuet step does she take, now. But only yesterday, she whirled me

down the road, at such a gait as made me laugh all over with silent merriment, that intense mirth of perfect satisfaction. With arching neck, ears bent forward, and trembling nervously with excitement, playing with the bit as if she felt it to be a rank offense to one so thoroughly a well-bred lady as she, the grand mare of her own sweet will got tired of jogging in the dust, and so she showed her heels to all who thought they had fast nags on the Avenue.

Only six months ago she wore bar shoes at least two-thirds of the time, a wretched bungler and stumbler, and knuckling so badly that, but for my strong attachment for her, and her many great qualities, I would have sold her long ago. To-day she is sounder and *younger* in feeling than I have ever known her, and is still improving. For these changes I am indebted to Mr. Dunbar, and I gladly and cordially commend him to your faith and fellowship in the love of good horses, and the wise humanity of taking good care of them.

Let me add a single word more. Does it not appear strange enough to excite our indignant wonder, that men who pretend to understand the horse's foot, and to be able to remove its simplest ailment, should hitherto have assailed the leg with blisters, or should have palmed off some sort of monstrous shoe or another as the curative agent, rather than have attacked the foot itself with intelligent surgery? Surely, reasoning by analogy might have taught the horse-doctor to follow in the clinical foot-steps of the Doctor of men. Dissection, and experiments in the college, ought long ago to have eliminated from Veterinary practice, its shams, and guesses, and malpractices, and to have established something like the perfect system, which a simple Canadian developed from the seeing eye, and the thinking brain of a practical man. He is entitled to my warmest encomiums, for I have tested the reliability of his lessons, and abide in firm faith of their efficacy.

Yours very truly,

R. STOCKETT MATTHEWS.

BALTIMORE, June 29th, 1871

CHAPTER XIV.

THE TOOTH RASP.

The hoof and teeth are the only two portions of the horse that cannot accommodate inflammation ; and as the pain created by it, in these parts, is more intense than that in any other portion of the body, it becomes the more necessary that it should be understood and prevented, if possible, if not, at least, alleviated.

Founder locates in the foot from the fact that the hoof cannot expand and accommodate itself to the inflammation as the skin and flesh do. Ear-ache and injuries or defects in the membrane that coats the bones, cause pain the next in intensity to the above. Founder in the first stages is general inflammation ; and for want of room by expansion, becomes a secondary disease through inflammatory process of the laminæ, the internal surface of the hoofs, and the outer surface of the cartilage that coats the Os Pedis, or coffin-bone. The pain in the feet increases in acuteness by the movement of the horse when in this condition, similarly with that of the tooth when the aching nerve has been touched by mastication, or othewtise ; but the nerve is more closely confined in the tooth, the surroundings stronger in material, therefore, we may safely conclude, that the pain in the tooth is more acute even, than that of the foot, which so often occasions tetanus, or lockjaw.

As the loss of rest through tooth-ache, in the man, causes a haggard and worn expression, so diseases in the tooth and foot, in like manner, cause the horse to present a woful appearance, making him look prematurely old, shortens

the period of his years of usefulness, and lessens his, otherwise, intrinsic value.

The teeth are much more neglected than the feet. While there is much attention erroneously given to the feet, few suspect that there are so many defects in the teeth or mouth; hence this neglect. By examining the teeth of horses, both living and dead, you can, in this way only, arrive at a proper knowledge of the extent of the injuries done to horses, and attributed to other causes than the teeth.

The following excuses are made by those who cannot detect the real cause; "A poor feeder! Delicate constitution! Dont half masticate his oats! Is not himself! Wants a thousand little things inconvenient to get!" all, instead of the above, being irregularities of the molar teeth, or grinders. One can *best* arrive at a knowledge of this by examining the bleached jaw bones and teeth of dead horses, where one would be surprised to find so many defective jaws in horses, of even six or seven years of age. This can be only attributed to the changed material in food, when domesticated, with that of the horse in his natural condition.

My attention was first called to this by a very valuable mare, owned by a cousin of mine, who bled her. He had to feed her with chopped and soaked hay, for some years. From her healthful appearance, I concluded that there must be only some simple, local wrong. I purchased her at about one third of her value, had she been right. On examination, I found one of her front teeth, on the under jaw, more than an inch longer than it should be, which had worn away the tooth opposite on the upper jaw, the gum, and almost the jaw-bone. I put her down, secured her, sawed the tooth half in two, and then broke it off with a cold-chisel and mallet. My cousin never forgave me, as he thought I knew of the tooth before, though I had never seen it. He was much older than myself, and his overweening conceit, like many other horsemen of the present day, would rather lose a horse entirely, than have those they considered their inferior in knowledge, deal with them under such circumstances, and profit by the transaction.

I have since met with many cases of this kind, that have baffled the best skill of veterinarians and horsemen generally, who sought for the evil in other places than the teeth.

I now own a very speedy horse that has been similarly affected, who, though only seven years of age, has changed hands several times, and that too with men distinguished for their knowledge, whose names are considered authority on the horse, yet, were never able to detect that the cause of his changing his gate, when in rapid motion, was through the condition of his teeth, generally, and an overgrowth of two molars. In order to file down his teeth, we found it necessary to cast him, and for two hours, Dr. White, Veterinary Surgeon and two assistants worked faithfully on the teeth, and then had not fully completed the job.

This horse, since he was three or four years old, never could have eaten sufficient to develop his growth, and corresponding strength, or to exhibit his full powers. I think I am justified in this assertion from the fact that, while in the possession of one of his late owners, he grew, at about the age of six years, three inches, in the unprecedented short time of three months. This was brought about by turning the horse into rich, red clover, and feeding him chopped corn and oats. The condition of his teeth must have prevented him from properly masticating the dry food, either hay or cereals with which he had been fed, whereby his growth had been retarded ; hence the *increased* growth, when privileged to crop the soft clover and eat the bruised grain.

Every owner of a horse should become possessed of a tooth-rasp. Mine is a great improvement upon the English rasp, as it has India rubber in the front, to prevent it from injuring the gums or lips, by coming in contact with them while filing down the teeth. This necessity I became aware of, only, in filing down the teeth of my own horse, as it injured his lips and gums to such an extent, that for a week he could scarcely eat enough to sustain life ; his mouth resembling that of a person in a state of salivation. It is wider and longer, with teeth raised like the wood rasp, as also that of the file,

each varrying in size in different places on its face, thus enabling the operator to do the work more rapidly and safer than with the ordinary one. It has a handle similar to the garden spade whereby it can be guided more safely, the strength used more steadily, and to better advantage. There is a mouth-iron accompanying it similar to the ball-iron without the circle or ring, through which they put the ball and hand, and may be used as easily and safely as the ball-iron for that purpose. Owners should attend to this operation of filing, as with this iron in the mouth, they can examine the teeth, and discover any irregularaties almost as plainly as they can discern them in the eye. The operation should be performed by the groom, with the aid, or under the supervision of the owner; as he should be more competent to judge when the teeth are properly filed. The invention of this iron had its conception in the trouble we had, and in the injuries done my horse, when filing his teeth. The rasp coming in contact with the sides of the jaw necessitated the placing of wood between the jaws, to keep the rasp from rubbing against the cheeks or sides of the jaw. Its best feature, now, I would consider, is in the easy means of detecting any injuries to the teeth, which heretofore were not known, because they could not easily be seen, rather than that they were neglected.

There was much suffering among the cavalry horses in Texas, owing to their disordered, irregular teeth. The hay, if it can be called so, is so wiry that it is much more difficult to masticate; besides, the cereal grain is principally corn; both materials being the most difficult to grind, especially when the molars are irregular.

By the way, this reminds me of another grave error, in the standard the government has adopted in the height of cavalry horses. Had they lowered the standard half an inch, or more, they would get a much stronger class of horses. Better have an extra inch of body, in diameter, than two inches extra, in length of leg.

The Texan horse, that comes up to the standard, is overgrown, and it is rarely that such a horse has the endurance of

the more compactly built one. (See Sergeant McGuire's letter, on the Crimean War and the Arab horse.

Had the Government of the United States placed the inspection of the Texan horse in the hands of Captain Porter, Quartermaster at Fort Richardson,—when I visited that Post, —Sergeant McGuire, then of Fort Concho, and Lieutenant Thompson, of Camp Charlotte, they would saved thousands of dollars to the Government, and had more efficient horses for the service than either the American horse, or overgrown Texan.

I purchased a horse that had been rejected because of his height, which was only a half-inch below the standard, on which I rode fifteen hundred miles. Within the time, I had several changes of escort, and in every one of these escorts, were from one to three horses laid up while on this journey.

This ball-depositor is a very handy and useful thing, and the groom who cannot, and will not use it, only proves that he is better at making excuses than doing his work ; in fact, he is an eye-servant.

While I do not advocate drugging horses for every little thing, it is sometimes necessary to do so,—when it can be given in balls with the least trouble. The time lost in seeking for a person to give the medicine in acute attacks, often turns the scale between disease and time, thereby wasting the time in which the horse might have been saved. The owner, in this case, should see the ball given, or give it himself with the aid of the groom, as *he* need not soil his gloves by doing so.

The only difficulty I have had, after treating a horse is, in getting the groom to attend him. He may be ready to say "yes sir" to everything, whether he understands it or not.

LETTER FROM JAMES Mc GUIRE. U. S. CAVALRY.

FORT CONCHO, TEXAS,
March, 5th 1869.

MR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sir; In our recent conversation at Fort Concho respecting the height and constitution of Texas horses, I am of your opinion, that the medium size (or a little under) is preferable, and it brings to my recollection several instances where the superiority of small horses over large ones has been tested. I will narrate two of many that have come under my observation.

When the Crimean War broke out I happened to be serving in the 12th Regiment of British Lancers, then stationed at Bangalore, in the East Indies. The regiment received orders to proceed to the Crimea, by way of the overland route through Egypt, taking their horses with them. A question arose, whether those horses, that were always used to a warm climate, could endure the severity of winter in the Crimea; also, their size was spoken of, as being too small, some of them not exceeding 14 hands, three inches in height; however, they had to be tried.

The regiment marched "in heavy marching order" across the peninsula of Madras to Mangalore, and there embarked on board steam and sailing vessels, the latter taken in tow by the former, proceeding through the Strait of Babel-Mandeb, up the *Red Sea*, and disembarked at Suez; then marched across the desert, to Grand Cain; thence along the banks of the Nile, to Alexandria, re-embarked and proceeded to Balaklava, in the Crimea, where the regiment disembarked without losing a single horse during the whole route. Many might imagine that it would take some time for horses to recuperate after such a journey both by land and sea, but it was not so. They were fit for active service the morning after disembarkation, and continued so until the termination of the war.

After the fall of Sebastopol, the regiment was ordered to proceed to Eupatoria, to reinforce a division of the Allied Army under the command of a French General (De Allonville.) The Cavalry had heavy duty to perform at this point, such as cutting off all supplies that were forwarded from Russia Proper, by way of the Isthmus of Perikop, and destined for the Russian Army. At length the long dreaded winter set in, and when the English and French Horses were actually paralyzed with the cold, these little East India Horses, when exercised about 15 minutes, were as full of life as if they were in their native clime. Then the problem was solved, that they could endure the cold of the North, as well as the heat of the East. When the troops were ordered to England, the Sultan of Turkey purchased the whole of the horses of the regiment, as they stood. The English government would not have them brought to England, on account of their size, being unable to get horses to match them in that country.

The second instance is, as follows. In the latter part of the year 1856, the 12th regiment of Lancers was ordered to return to India, to complete its period of service in the East. On landing at Madras, the regiment was divided; one wing ordered to Bangalore, the other to re-embark and proceed to Bombay. I happened to belong to the left wing, destined for the latter place, and on arriving at Kirkee, about one hundred and seventy miles from Bombay, the command was supplied with horses (all stallions) untrained, four years old, and none exceeding 14 hands, two inches in height. They were scarcely in our possession when the news spread from one extreme of India to the other, that the Sepoys of Bengal had mutinied. The troops were ordered to march from all parts of India and concentrate in Bengal. Our route lay by way of Hyderabad, in the Deccan, from there to Jubbulpoor and Sangor, in Bengal. I need not name the distance, you will perceive by looking at the map of British India that it was a long and difficult route.

To be brief, after marching and countermarching over a distance of six thousand miles during a period of three years, until peace was established, and the greater portion of the distance marched by night, which was more harassing to both horses and men, many would imagine that any horses traveling such a distance under such circumstances, would be fit for little or nothing afterward; on the contrary, our horses were in their prime. So much for youth and good treatment.

They were chiefly Persian and Arabian horses, with a few of them a cross between the two breeds, and I have never, before or since, seen their equal as cavalry horses, for strength, endurance and spirit.

The horses of Texas, to a certain extent, remind me of those I have described, with the exception that they are more or less injured before they become the property of the government. If they were purchased when young (say four years old) and properly trained, they would, in my humble opinion, make excellent cavalry horses.

The company to which I belong will leave the Concho in a few days, en route to Austin, Texas, and if you would drop me a few lines from New Orleans to that place, I would deem it a particular favor.

I remain, Very Resp't,

Your Obedient Servant

JAMES McGUIRE,

1st Sgt. Co. "M" 4th U.S. Cavalry.

P. S.—I had the company Blacksmith to shoe my horse according to your instructions, and it has made a great improvement in his paces, as his feet have been expanded nearly an inch.

J. McG.

Office Broadway R. R. Co.

ON THE IMPEDIMENTS TO PROGRESS.

One of which is Parks. No language can fully describe this person, neither Horace Greeley nor Brick Pomeroy. He can best be described by several of his own articles, one of which is entitled "Bots." We first saw him in Brampford, Canada, where he witnessed an operation of ours on a horse in which we had occassion to groove a foot, and use a shoe similar to the one he claims to be his own invention. All the virtue there is in his method is, in the leather he puts between the shoe and the foot, and when this is worn through at the heels, the horse again becomes lame, he not having understood how to remove the cause. It is no wonder that blacksmiths are bewildered when ignorant pretenders assume such important responsibilities. Contrast Cullen with Parks; the first we think honorable, and in the margin between them, the blacksmith becomes demented. The one hugs the wall, asking the aid of nature; the other has the sole, frog, and bars, as his foundation.

Park's system of shoeing is in keeping with his knowledge of Bots and the other diseases catalogued under the article containing his views of their origin and habits, a copy of which we subjoin.

Of his invention, he says "Tis strange, tis passing strange that *no one should have discovered ere this, our method of shoeing, when it is so simple, so natural, and its soundness and correctness is so axiomatic.* It is equally strange to us, and inexplicable on any other ground than this, that no one hitherto, who has devoted his attention to the science of Farriery, has taken the simple teachings of unerring nature as his guide. This we did, and our success is evidence to the world that we sought a wise preceptress, however dull or obtuse the pupil may have been."

Teachings of nature! yet he would not put water on a hoof. Not one word of truth is the whole of this bombast of his discovery. There is proof sufficient of his lack of knowledge,

in scoring the wall. He makes three scores on the outside and only two on the inside. When I used to score, I rarely made any on the outside, for it retains the natural shape much better than the inside. (See the article on Lee and Parks, for my views more clearly.) Nature a model for such a mind as his ! Bosh ! making three scores on the outside as I have seen him do in Baltimore, and only two on the inside. Better had he trusted to the leather sole, and used his human bridle. Spooner, Parks, Roberge and Lee, all put together, know literally nothing about my system. I have been successful every where (see the army reports as well as others,) while the others have not.

Roberge, sits on his anvil, while Lee has time to turn and fit shoes with his own hands, in a city large as New York, amongst myriads of horses. Parks too, his leather is wearing out simultaneously with his pretensions.

Parks, unlike the others, apes my system, swore out a patent about two years since, for that he saw used in Canada eight years ago ; that is, if he has any patent.

This uncouth sinner flaunts his education in such language as the following : "A scintillation of Canadian genius the Rolling Motion or Roberge shoe, but as it is *non est* &c," which is as much his language as the meaningless system or gleanings he had sworn to, as his invention, that is if he has gotten a patent.

An article on Bots by Parks, with a few more nonsensical extracts, I here introduce, from which the public can draw their own inferences.

BOTS.

Bots are one of the natural appendages of the stomach of a horse, as much so as his lungs, arteries, nerves, or any other essential part of his organism ; they never injure the horse. They have been placed in the stomach of all horses by nature, for a specific purpose, and no horse can live without

them in the stomach. They are in the stomach of all horses at the time of foaling, they never have more or less at any age, they never lose their hold of the lining of the stomach under any circumstance. The heart was given him to propel the blood ; the lungs to breathe ; the eye to see ; the ear to hear ; and the bots to aid digestion,—the life and health of the horse is dependent upon the bots. When the horse is sick the bots is sick ; any description of food good for the horse is good for the bots. They never injure a horse except when they become diseased, the same as any other vital part ; if your horse is overheated or exhausted from work, and is attacked with colic or any description of inflammation, the bots suffer equally with the horse ; anything given the horse that will kill the bots, is liable to kill the horse also. When you keep your horse in good condition, well and regularly fed, there is no danger. Bots have been used heretofore to cover up the ignorance of the farrier. If your horse dies of inflammation of the brain, they would say he died of bots ; if he dies of lung fever, the same thing is said ; if he dies of colic or anything else, it is always attributed to the bots, when in fact no horse ever died directly from their effects. The quid has been given to the sheep and cow, so that they may belch up their food and ruminate or re-chew it, thereby preparing it for the digestive organs, while the bots have been given to the horse to perform the same work for him, without taxing him with the labor of re-chewing ; besides, his owner might require some hard or fast work of him, just at the time when he should be re-chewing his food. The gad-fly or nit-bee has nothing to do with the production of the bot, no more than the horse-fly, buffalo-knat, or any other fly ; all the harm they do is the tickling and buzzing sensation that they produce in the particularly ticklish portion of the horse that they visit ; the wasp, hornet, and other insects, torment horses, yet there are no bots ever attributed to any of them ; you can punish a horse as much with a fine straw or a piece of paper twisted to a point, by tickling him under the throat, in the flank, or upon the legs, as much as the gad-fly does, or by catching a

fly and holding it close to his ear while it makes a buzzing noise, all of which he attempts to escape from, as much as from the presence of the gad-fly. It is impossible for him to lick or bite the nits from off his legs, belly or throat, without pulling the hair off, and as no horse ever swallows any hair, it is impossible for them to be carried into the stomach ; besides there are thousands of horses in warm climates, and in stables, that never see any gad-flies, yet all horses have bots. All that has been written in connection with the gad-flies producing bots, and all of the technical terms used to illustrate them and their effects, have been to fill works upon the horse. Bots as a disease in horses, like that of the lampass, and many other old notions, will soon be obsolete.

There are no such diseases as Chest Founder, Bots or, Lampass.*

(See his receipt for curing glanders.)

"Few of our fastest trotters have had a royal pedigree ; on the contrary, perhaps a majority of the fastest trotters cannot be traced to distinguished ancestry. Horses intended for the turf should be fed in high mangers, so as to contract the chest ;

"Stallions have greater endurance than geldings, and the endurance of the mare excels either.

"From thirty year's experience with horses, I have come to the conclusion that no horse should be castrated : it disables him and destroys a certain portion of vitality. No gelding can endure so much hardship on as little food as stallions and mares, because the stallion and mare are in their natural state, while the gelding has been subjected to an artificial operation, which has a tendency to weaken him.

"The foot of the foal is much larger at the top, or near the hair, than at the sole, which peculiarity continues to exist until shoes are applied. If shod by the usual method, by which the entire weight is thrown on the wall of the foot, it immediately commences to lengthen at the toe and enlarge

*No such disease! and yet he gives receipts for their cure. What consistency! Dunbar.

at the front of the sole and contract at the coronet, or at the upper rim of the wall, and at the heel.

"The *Horny Frog* is wedge-shaped, as we have said, and is one of the most interesting and wonderful animal substances known, and its functions are second in importance to those of no other portion of the foot, of which we have treated previously. The line in which the horny frog and bars unite, are called commissures.

"By reference to the illustration of the common shoe on page 12, it will be seen that the least possible bearing surface is provided, and that it is all transferred from the natural bearings, the sole, frog, bars, and the rear portion of the wall in a slight degree, to a narrow exterior rim of the wall.

"The form of the shoe should fit the form of the foot ;* the nailing should not extend so far toward the heel on the inner as on the outer side of the foot ; the wall of the outer side of the foot should be kept the highest or longest, and in case the foot has been so mutilated and distorted by injudicious shoeing that this cannot be done in the foot, it should be done by making the outer portion of the shoe the thickest at the heel and gradually reducing the thickness to the opposite heel. Heel calks should be used generally as they are useful and economical, and often prevent accident ; the length of the shoe should not exceed the length of the foot but little,—these we always observe ; and in addition, closely adhere to the following, which constitutes our patent claim. The entire upper surface of the shoe, or the bearing for the wall, the outer section of the sole and the frog, to be on the same plane or level, unless the horny frog is so depressed, or settled down as to require a concave seat in the iron frog of our shoe, or in cases where the frog is perished away, or has been cut away through ignorance, in which case we recommend to place a piece of strong leather under the shoe, covering the entire sole, between which and the sole, frog and bars, we calk with oakum, thoroughly saturated and bedded in our patent preparation, the receipt

*Whatever shape, whether deformed or not ? Dunbar.

for which will be found in this work. This leather diaphragm and stuffing, we apply in all cases of bad lameness from the falling of the frog, and the consequent contraction of the heels ; and in such cases, we relieve the pressure produced by contraction of the insensible wall, on the sensitive, internal structure of the foot, by grooving the wall, as shown in the foot of the figure illustrating the process of neurotomy, on page 24. The outer quarter being thicker and more rigid than the inner one, we usually cut three grooves in it, and but two on the inner one. By thus removing sections of the enamel of the crust we relax the rigid, contracted wall, and the pressure on the internal portion, of which we have spoken, thus producing immediate relief from the intense pain arising from the pressure of the wall on the wings of the coffin-bone, which are the seat of the large metacarpal nerves, which divide at this point into numerous smaller nerves which are distributed over and under the coffin-bone."

Bots, what nonsense : the bots are hatched with as much regularity when once taken into the mouth as the egg of any other insect, fowl, reptile, or fish.

From annoyance occasioned by the fly, the horse's attention is drawn to its place of deposit,and with his mouth removes the eggs just laid, before their glutinous coating has firmly adhered to the hair. This the horse continues to do all through the winter, if the eggs are not removed, which can be easily done by a sharp knife, from the leg, and from the jaw, with scissors or fire. A much better way is to prevent the fly from depositing them, which could be done by oiling the places where she usually lays her eggs, with coal-oil or common grease.

Bots are generally found of every size and age, just in accordance with the time that the horse takes them into his mouth, and when matured in the stomach pass away, and if not picked up by birds, domestic fowls or reptiles, form themselves, like catterpillars, into a chrysalis state, from which they shortly become flies : thus propagating their species.

To infer that bots are born with the horse would imply

that they are either a part of the horse, or that they are in each case a new creation. The bot-flies have lately, in many places in and near Toronto in Canada, deposited their eggs on the head of sheep, and have caused much injury by doing so. On being stung or annoyed by the fly they run to some hard substance, the fence or against one another, and in rubbing the place tickled, move the egg before the glutinous matter adheres to the hair, by this means they rub it into some of the parts, where, being hatched, they gain access to the internal parts of the nose, eye, or a little opening between the eye and nose ; from any of these places it enters the head, and in a very short time destroys the sheep, if not detected and disposed of. This being the case, the Bot is not a part of the horse, as Parks says. It is all nonsense about his statements of Glanders, Lampass, Narrow Chests for Turf horses, and pedigree, and trotters without pedigree surpassing those with.

"After sawing out the heels where the walls attach to the frog, and thinning out the soles each side of the frog, adjust the shoe, to the foot, *cold*, so that there will be from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch space between the iron frog of the shoe, and the frog of the foot, when no weight is on the foot."

" After sawing out the heels ; " observe his reference to "Spooney" in condemnation of my cutting out the heels, as he calls it, as though there was nothing more done in connection with my system. The cutting of the heels, and in fact all the operation, spectators, even Veterinary Surgeons are permitted to see while I am operating, not one of them has gotten any more knowledge of my system, from what they see in that way, then he did, and the parts that he attempts to imitate me in, is worse than nothing without the leather—the leather in his case is like charity, it "covers a multitude of sins."

" When the weight of the animal is applied, the sole and frog will settle down to a bearing, by which support is given to the natural organs of support, instead of all the weight

being transferred to the wall, the unnatural bearing, as in the use of the common shoe."

This ingrate does not know that, in referring to *Spooney*, he is condemning what he practices himself, in imitation of me. Thieves seldom know enough to conceal their plunder.

Here him prate about the sole and frog being the natural organs of support, and the wall the unnatural one. He ought to drive the nails through what he calls the natural organs of support, instead of the wall. His whole stock of plunder is in keeping with his philosophy in feeding and watering horses while hot, his knowledge of bots, and theories in general, the only thing useful with him is the leather.

"All shoes should be nailed entirely around the toe, and the nailing on either side should extend back to the quarters, though it is proper to extend the nailing, one nail. Every nail driven in the hoof is to be regarded as a wedge, having a tendency to cleave or split off that portion of the wall without the nail from that within: hence the spaces between nails should be sufficient to prevent the possibility of the clefts uniting. Not one foot of a horse which has been shod for three months only, in any country (and we have examined them in many,) can we find that retains its natural form and functions. We are so desirous to find one that has not been impaired by the common methods of shoeing, that we offer a prize of ten barrels of the best flour made in the country for a specimen.

"*This figure represents a horse which has been shod on the old system, until the frogs of the feet have fallen down, and produced heel contraction, cocked knees, and other concomitant maladies, resulting in deformity and general disability.*

"*Chest Founder, Spring of the Knees, or Knee-cocked and Sweeney*, are secondary, and are produced by the falling of the frog and sole, for the want of a bearing, as in all cases where the horse is shod by the old system. When the horse is properly shod, so that the weight of the animal is thrown on the proper organs of support, the feet will assume their

natural position under the body, and the shoulders will be drawn back to their natural position.

"Feeling that we have reached the acme of perfection in the construction and application of the *Shoe* for the *Horse*, for all his various uses, we have ceased to experiment, and shall devote the balance of life to its introduction."

THE HORSE'S FOOT, THE WAY TO SHOE IT, AND THE KIND OF SHOES TO WEAR.

To the Editor of the Pioneer :—

I have had, through life, an admiration for the Horse, amounting almost to a passion. For fifteen years, in early life, I occupied myself in horse-shoeing, in studying the anatomy and diseases of the horse's foot, and in experiments upon the best method of keeping it sound. The information thus gained by practical experience has been arrived at by others ; but, while such information may be gleaned in fragments from various works, I know of none in which the proper manner of taking care of the horse's foot and shoeing it are plainly, practically, and succinctly set forth. It is to supply this want, that I write this communication ; and if I can furnish facts to any smith which he did not know before, and can thus be the means of promoting the comfort, and prolonging the usefulness, of even one noble animal, I shall be repaid for my trouble.

There are a great number of diseases which afflict the horse, and which are attributed to various causes, but which are all, directly or indirectly, produced by improper care of the animal's feet, and by bad shoeing. Of these may be named contracted feet, corns in the heel, sand or quarter-cracks, gravel, thrush, springing of the knees, and shrinking of the shoulders. These are the more common diseases of the horse, given in common language, as used by smiths and farriers. These diseases are peculiar to horses that have been

shod, and are never known in horses that have not been shod. My experience in the Indian country has convinced me of this ; for, of the thousands of Indian ponies that I have seen, and which are never shod, I have not met one having either of the diseases named.

Now the natural shape of the horse's foot is circular—as broad as it is long. The frog is the life of it—supplying oil to the wall of the hoof, and elasticity to the whole. It is of a wedge-like shape, and is connected with the outer and hard portions of the foot by ligaments, which are commonly called braces. In shoeing, the first thing usually done by the smith is to pare this frog, and the next is to cut away the braces which connect the frog with the balance of the foot. The effect of this is, first, to dry up the frog, and to change it from a springy, vitalizing substance, into a dead and bony one ; the second is to contract the hoof, changing it from a round to an oblong shape, and subjecting the animal to one or another of the diseases named. The first rule to be observed by the smith, then, who wants to shoe properly is, never to touch the frog with a knife. Nature will take care of that, and whenever the covering becomes too thick or hard, it will scale off of itself. The second is, never to cut the sides of the braces, for such cutting separates the frog from the hoof, to which it furnishes life, as I have already said. The third is, never to open or cut out the heels, for the substance placed there has its use to preserve the shape of the foot and to prevent it from contracting. In a word, confine your cutting and rasping to the sole and wall of the foot, and employ these only for the purpose of leveling the ground equally upon the shoe. These rules, strictly observed, will preserve the foot in a healthy condition ; and, the foot thus preserved, all cause for the diseases mentioned will be obviated or removed.

That is to say, if the shoe itself is properly made—for, without a true and well shaped shoe, the careful preparation of the foot to receive it, will only partially avail. Such a shoe should be both concave and convex in shape, and formed to correspond with the structure of the foot. The weight of the

animal should be thrown upon the hard, outer wall, and be equally distributed upon all portions of the foot which were intended to bear such weight. By looking at the horse's foot 'twill be seen that the portions thus intended to bear his weight are the front and quarters. The depth of hoof in these portions is very great ; while at the heel the hoof is thin and not calculated for heavy pressure. Now, with the common, flat, three-corked shoe, over two-thirds of the weight of the animal is thrown upon the heel of the foot, or upon its most tender portion. With a correct shoe, this tender part of the hoof will be almost entirely relieved from this pressure, and be made to bear only its natural proportion—a thing impossible with the ordinary shoe, for, in that, two of the three corks are set directly under the heel.

Such a shoe as I have described—one obviating every objection that can be urged against the common shoe, and answering every requirement of the perfect shoe, is found, so far as I can judge, in the shoe made under the Goodenough patent. Of the full width of the common shoe, its lower surface is concave, bringing the pressure upon the outer edge, and thus corresponding exactly with the shape and design of the natural foot. Instead of three, it is made with five or seven corks, interspersed along the toe and quarters of the hoof where there is depth sufficient to bear the weight, while the heel is relieved ; or rather the shoe is corked all round, with holes countersunk for the nails by which the shoe is fastened. The great value of this arrangement will be apparent to all. Aside from the advantage of securing equal and uniform bearing upon the parts of the hoof which are designed to stand pressure, the countersinking of the nails is an item of importance in the wearing and firmness of the shoe. It saves the nail from possible contact with stones or the ground, leaves the shoe thoroughly fastened to the hoof while it lasts, and saves all necessity for clipping the shoe either at the toe or on the quarters. It, therefore, protects the wall of the hoof, instead of ruining it, as the clipped shoe always does.

This Goodenough shoe will prove of the greatest utility, for use on the cavalry and riding horse. It is so constructed that it cannot become clogged with heavy soils in the summer, or with snow in the winter; there is no possibility of a horse's slipping with it, as it presents more points of contact, and furnishes a better hold on either iced or slippery pavements than the common shoe; and, from its conformity to the natural shape of the foot, no horse can overreach or interfere with it on, that would not do so if barefooted. The peculiarities above mentioned make this shoe equally desirable for all other kinds of work, and especially for the draft horse, who needs a shoe allowing the utmost possible traction to the ground, if I may use the term.

In addition to the qualities mentioned, the shoe possesses many others which might be named, and which help to make it the most perfect shoe I have ever seen. If it were once introduced into general use, I am sure that the old-fashioned shoe would thereafter be entirely discarded. I do not hesitate to say that its use would prove a blessing to the horse, as it must also prove a great economy. So exactly is it adapted to the horse's foot, that, when on, it seems almost a natural continuation of the hoof; and I cannot conceive how any horse need be lamed, or suffer from the diseases incident to bad shoes and bad shoeing, if the Goodenough shoe were worn and properly put on.

While on this subject of the horse's foot, I may as well suggest a point or two outside of shoes and shoeing, which are worth regarding. The diseases I have named as incident to bad shoeing, are aggravated by the manner in which horses are stabled. Every one has noticed that these diseases affect the fore feet, legs and shoulders of the horse, almost exclusively. One reason for this is, that the fore feet are kept dry in the stable, while the hind feet are moistened by the animal's manure and urine; and the latter have some chance to grow, and keep comparatively healthy, in spite of the butchering of the frogs, and braces. The manner in which horses are confined in stables is simply barbarous. The noble animal is not

allowed the liberty of a caged tiger ; but is obliged to stand day and night, when unharnessed, in one position, and most frequently in a stall where he cannot lie down and rise again without danger of straining, or other injury. No horse should ever be tied in a stable ; and the stall should be large enough to admit of his turning round and getting up and down at his liking, and without danger and inconvenience. A box stall is the only kind in which a horse should be confined.

Respectfully, &c.,

W. J. CULLEN.

St. Paul, Sept. 14, 1863.

LETTER FROM M. C. MEIGS.

Quarter Master General's Office
Washington, D. C. Sept. 6th. 1866.

Alex. Dunbar Esq.

319, E and 11th Sts. Washington.

Sir :

Did not you inform me that the sprung knee, which makes so many horses stumble, was caused by defects in the foot, more frequently than by disease of the sinews of the leg, and that it was curable by your system ?

Respectfully.

M. C. Meigs,
Quarter Master.

CHAPTER XV.

PATENT STABLE-FLOOR.

I have refrained from introducing any of my patents, the principal ones of which are for the relief of the horse, until I had strengthened my reputation, in which I have been greatly aided by the reports of Army Officers, Civilians of reliability, and latterly, of Veterinary Surgeons, among whom may be numbered Dr. Coleman, member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, whose letter, testifying to the merits of my system, will be found in the first part of this book.

This Stable-floor is placed upon springs of material most preferable to the owner, whether rubber, metal or wood, similar to the bottom of a wagon-box. They can be used as a plain, board floor, or by attaching a rim the height of a brick, on the flat or edge, which can be filled with clay, composition or brick ; the latter being preferable.

The springs under the floor add, in the degree of their elasticity or springy nature, to that of the tendons, in comparison with a horse or man standing on turf, or springy material of any kind, with standing on solid plank, rock, brick or marble.

The opinion may be advanced, that the board or solid substance between the springs and the tendons, will lessen the effect and not benefit the animal, while standing still. It might as well be supposed, that the shoe, being attached to the foot, would detract from the ease of the horse in traveling over turf, meadows or springy roads.

The horse, by standing or lying on spring-floors, is affected similarly to a person using a spring-board, or spring-seat

wagon, or lying on a mattress with a stiff surface, or any hard substance, with springy material under them, or macadimized roads with a turf or springy base. It destroys the "Ennui" of the horse, while standing in the stable. It relieves and strengthens his tendons, and joints, while standing still, and moving becomes a substitute for exercise: at least it will relieve the tedious, tiresome monotony, of long confinement in a stable.

DESCRIPTION OF COMBINED COLLAR AND HAMES.

This collar and hames is a combination of wire in light harness; of rod-iron in heavy, and is made of the above, combined with wood, straw, hair, and leather.

The light, trotting-collar can be so constructed as to retain sufficient strength to draw the heaviest weight required in record-trotting, and be no heavier than one pound and a quarter. This will remedy the discrepancies of the different grades of the track. For it is with pain that we hear of quarter and half-mile time, registered to the credit of celebrated steeds, even Dexter, which detracts from the reputation he merits, or is capable of earning, were he properly harnessed.

While Mr. Bonner deserves credit for his enterprise in securing such a horse, whether for the love of him, or in a business point of view, he has no right to deprive Dexter of the increased renown he is capable of earning, were his owner not afraid of the up-grade portion in a mile test.

While Dexter remains the property of Mr. Bonner, both directly and indirectly in a financial point of view, at the same time the public have a claim upon his celerity or speed, in the same sense they have on all public characters, or animals, distinguished, or celebrated for their ability. Dexter, for his own, his owner, and the public's sake, should be fitted in the best possible manner, and driven by the most expert driver,

at the longest distance, in the shortest time possible, without injury to the horse. As King of the trotting turf, justice cannot be fully done him, or his capabilities thoroughly tested, except by the use of the light, Dunbar trotting-collar, now being manufactured by William Warner Esq., of Wilmington, Delaware. With the ordinary breast collar, the horse, while trotting on the level or down grade, draws or does his work altogether by the lines ; hence the injustice both to the horse and the public, in selecting their time on, and registering such portions of, the track, because, while ascending the up-grade portion, the draught becomes too heavy for the mouth and lines alone, thus compressing the chest by the pressure of the collar or breast-strap, which, while it is compressed in such changed condition of the draught, presses the upper portion of the breast collar against the windpipe, in some degree affecting the breathing, compressing the scapula near its union with the humerus, besides, the draft being low, raises the lumbar vertebra, and in all, detracts some seconds from the speed of the horse, the true effect of selecting quarter and half mile tests, which is degrading to horses, much more to their owners.

Of the horse, whose pedigree guarantees, not only superior lungs, but speed and durability, with this new collar, none need be afraid of slight up-grade, for while it changes the draught from the bit and lines, to our method of draught, we not only secure the power of the horse without compression of the scapula or interference with the wind, but we change the labor on certain over-taxed muscles, which is tantamount to partial rest, as the power given the horse by the patent attachment, enables him to carry *three* up-grade, as easily as *one* with the breast collar, the draught being from an inch and a half to two inches higher, which leaves the vertebra in the strongest and most natural position.

With a road wagon, a horse with the wire-combined collar and hames, weight only two pounds and a half, will draw three men as easily as one, with the breast collar. A six pound collar and hames would answer for heavy cartage, and

a horse would draw as much and with more ease with a six pound collar, as with the ordinary collar and hames weighing from twelve to eighteen pounds. They can be made to draw any load, with half the weight of the old collar and hames, and with increased power, as it is on the same principle of my patent hames, the draft being from the *inner* side of the rim, as is the case with my patent hames, for double harness, for cart, or artillery purposes.

DRAUGHT.

Among the many valuable inventions on exhibition at the American Institute Fair, is that of Dr. Alexander Dunbar's patent for an improved horse-collar and hames. There are serious defects in the old mode of harnessing. Dr. Dunbar insists that the rim of a collar should follow as closely as possible the form of the neck, and should retain this relation while in action. The head of the horse is wider at the eyes than the neck is at the proper place for draught ; consequently, a collar that is pressed over the head must be so pliable as not to retain its proper shape under the strain of heavy draught. Again, the padding of the common collar and the outside draught of the hames rests upon the point of the shoulder, throwing the labor upon that part, which amounts to something like a man attempting to lift a great weight with a slender pole on the point of the shoulder. If the draught is too high, the collar rises and chokes the horse, while an undue pressure is brought against the most prominent dorsal vertebra. The raised neck curves the vertebræ of the back, making it hollow and detracting from its power. Force the horse into an unnatural position, and you rob him of a portion of his strength. We must study the formation of the horse, for all the parts bear a certain proportion, a degree of harmony to each other. When the draught raises the horse in front, extra labor is placed upon the hind feet. If the draught is too low, the top of the collar leans forward and presses against the crest of the neck,

forcing the cervicals and head down, and raising the lumbar vertebræ or back over the loins. This prevents the equal distribution of draught ; in fact it throws the heaviest part of it on the fore feet, producing serious disease in these members, such as contraction, corns, ringbones &c. Place the draught so that the back is kept free from curve, strain or twist, and you enable the horse to use his whole strength without injury to himself. Were that fact properly understood, we should not see so many horses hobbling along in pain, unable to bear up under the tasks imposed upon them, and constant objects of sympathy to every man with a spark of humanity in his bosom. The old method of harnessing has all the defects that we have named, and it has been the fruitful cause of serious disease. Looking at this question with the eyes of a humanitarian as well as a philosopher, Dr. Dunbar went to work to make a much needed improvement. His genius was equal to the occasion, and he has invented a folding collar, opening at the top so as to be put around the horse's neck, instead of pressing it over his head. The upper ends of the hames are held together with a metal link which is adjustable in notches cut into the hames, so as to adapt the patent to horses of various sizes. In addition to this the hames can be removed with little trouble,—an important consideration, especially on the battle-field, where artillery horses are shot down, and it becomes necessary to set free the dying or wounded animal. The draught-bar is attached to the rear inner corner of the hames, so that it passes through the body of the collar, thereby tending to draw the collar and hames on the horse's neck, instead of causing them to press against the same, as in the old way. The animal is thus relieved from much inconvenience, and the pressure is just where it should be. The draught is felt in the proper place, and those who have fairly tested the thing claim that the invention increases the power of the horse from one-fifth to one-third over the common method. All the strength thrown into the collar by this Dunbar patent is felt upon the load to be drawn, none of the power being expended on a lever that works in favor of

draught, and, of course, against the horse. There is much to recommend this invention, and it is gratifying to see it attract the attention that it does at the American Institute Fair. Dr. Dunbar has shown us how to take advantage of the full strength of the horse, contributing to his comfort at the same time, and guarding him from painful disease. And now it becomes the duty of the people to profit by the invention of a gentleman who, as Mr. Robert Bonner once said to us, has more originality than any man he ever met. A humane master will not neglect any opportunity to improve the condition and make more easy the hard life of his beast of burden. Dr. Dunbar has given special study to the foot of the horse and to draught, therefore his views upon these questions are in harmony with anatomy and the laws of scientific truth. He is master of these subjects, and the world may well stop to learn from him. Draught bears a marked proportion to the diseases of the feet, or, rather, is in sympathy with them. Abuse through ignorance of one part is felt in the other parts, and, this being so, it behooves us to pay particular attention to the plain philosophy of draught. By way of conclusion we will remark that Dr. Dunbar gives attention to other things than to the study of the horse. He has invented a snow-plow which will revolutionize the old plan of opening roads and clearing railroad tracks. We shall not describe this machine, but will add that it has attracted much attention at the fair now progressing in the Empire Rink, and has been highly commended by the managers of several of the most important railroad lines.

New York, Friday, September 23. 1870.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR'S PATENT HAMES.—In the sixth department, group 1, Exhibition of the American Institute, corner Third avenue and Sixty-third street can be seen a patent "Hame," the invention of Mr. Alex. Dunbar, the gentleman who has made such a radical change in the proper shoeing and treatment of the horse's foot. Mr. Dunbar has been instructing the cavalry and artillery service at Washington for more than a year past, and is the gentleman who relieved Dexter of lameness by the proper treatment of his feet. This

patent of Mr. Dunbar's is worthy of the attention of horsemen, and must make an entire revolution. He is radical in his views and invention, entirely changing the draught from the outside to the inside of the collar, as he is upon the treatment of the horse's foot. We are satisfied, from an investigation of the "hames," that a horse can draw a much heavier load, work with greater ease, and their use will effectually do away with galled shoulders. Dr. C. C. Grice, who has just returned from Europe, happening in our office, remarked to Mr. Dunbar, in our presence, that injuries to the horse's shoulder were to be attributed more to the defect in the hames than in the collar.

PATENT HAMES.

TO THE OWNER OF EVERY HORSE, AND TO ALL INTERESTED IN DRAFT ANIMALS.

I would call their attention to the defects in the present mode, and to my improved manner of draft.

Any person, after the perusal of the following, can, by standing a few minutes on any of the avenues, satisfy himself of its truth.

With the harness commonly used, it is a mere accident whether the draft is in its proper place or not. The head of an intelligent horse is wider at the eyes than the neck is at the proper place for the draught. The rim of a collar should follow the form of the neck as closely as possible without interfering with or injuring it, and should retain this relation while in action; therefore, a collar cannot be so formed as to be passed over the head, and afterward to fit the neck properly; because a collar that is pliable enough to be expanded so as to be passed over the head, and afterward to be pressed close to the neck, would be stiff enough to retain its proper shape under the strain of action, and would act as a springy lever, in the hands of a man. The padding of the common collar and outside draught of the harness rests upon the point of the shoulder, throwing the labor upon that part,

which is the same as for a man to put the point of his shoulder under the lever. The whole thing amounts to the same as putting a man to work to lift a great weight with a slender pole on the point of the shoulder.

Few person have given any attention to the many evils entailed upon the horse through the present detrimental mode of draft.

The draft of my patent Hame is on the inside, whereas, on other hames it is on the outside, and consequently by pulling backward and forward, galls the horse's shoulder. By the patent hame the draft is square, and does away with all friction.

TESTIMONIALS.

EAST OXFORD, Jan. 25, 1870.

MR. MARENUS BURGESS, Woodstock:

Dear Sir,—I have used the Dunbar patent Hame which I purchased of you, and after thoroughly testing it, I have no hesitation in pronouncing it the best hame now in use. My horses draw a much heavier load, and do their work with greater ease, and it will effectually do away with galled shoulders.

If this is of any use to you, you can use it, and I will cheerfully recommend it to the public notice, as I believe if it is in general use it will be a great benefit to the horse.

JOHN ULMAN.

WOODSTOCK, 15th January, 1870.

MR. M. BURGESS:

Dear Sir,—I have had your Hames in use for the last month, and find my horses can draw a larger load and with more ease than they could with the old style of hames. They effectually put a stop to all galled shoulders, and I can with confidence recommend them to the public.

If this is of any use to you, you are at liberty to use it, and I shall always feel happy in recommending your new style of Hames.

Yours truly,

THOS. J. CLARK.

SEDGWICK BARRACKS,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 30th, 1868.

Dear Sir, —I have carefully examined your improved horse Collar and Hames, and have no hesitation in saying that, so far as I am able to judge,

they seem to be a great improvement over the old plan, and will not only enable an animal to exert more power with less fatigue, but will also materially lessen the number of galled shoulders and other injuries incident to draught horses.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. A. DUPONT,
Capt. S. Artillery,
Bvt. Lt. Col. U. S. A.

Mr Alexander Dunbar,
Washington, D. C.

We, the undersigned, have used the new Patent Hame, patented by Mr. Dunbar, and have no hesitation to pronounce them the most perfect hame now in use, and far superior to the old hame. A horse with the new patent will draw a much heavier load, and from the perfect appliance of the draft there is no possibility of injuring the shoulders.

FREEMAN KARN,
JORDAN L. CHARLES,
SAMUEL BURGESS,
EDWARD McGEE,
T. J. CLARK,
T. WALTON,
R. SMALL.

LETTER FROM I. L. RATHBONE, A. D. C.

Fort Union, New Mexico.
Aug 19th, 1869.

My Dear Doctor.

General Davis and myself have been away from Fort Leavenworth nearly two months, on an inspection tour, and we have finally brought up in New Mexico. When I reached Santa Fe, my knowledge of your system had preceded me, and nothing would do but I must shoe their horses, they (owing to a bad blacksmith) were in a terrible condition about their feet, full of corns and sprung in the knees. I worked for *three* days, shoeing the horses and instructing the officers and blacksmiths. They were very much delighted, and I am sure I did a great deal of good. Then, on arriving here, I found that the officers at Santa Fe had written letters preceding me, and it being the head quarters of the 3rd Cavalry and a large depot like Fort Leavenworth, I have had to go work here, shoeing *all day* yesterday, and on the completion of this, am going to work again, to shoe a trotting horse, with sprung knees. They all seem delighted with the system, except

a few who, I am sorry to say, are too lazy to learn it. I took off, with a saw, at least two inches of horn from the toe of a mule yesterday. Now what I want is, one or two good models or casts, one of a contracted, one of a flat foot, and one of quarter-crack. Is there no danger of horses hurting their frogs and heels when the shoes are very short? Answer and explain to me all about "interfering." I do not get the feet straight enough always to suit me.

How do you find Rappahannock? Are you having any trouble in Washington, and what European Governments are you going to?

Dont fail to send me those casts. I shall be at Leaveuworth in a week.

Very Truly Yours,

I. L. RATHBONE,
A. D. C.

LETTER FROM DAVID McCAULEY.

WASHINGTON D. C.
September 4th 1869.

I hereby certify that I have practiced the trade of horse-shoer, for over 12 years, and part of that time was employed in the Quarter Master's department at Lincoln Depot, from which place I was transferred and placed under the instructions of Mr. Dunbar.

At first I found it very difficult to change from the old method of paring the horse's foot; but through his constant care over me, I have learned the system of treating the horse's foot, according to Mr. Dunbar's ideas.

I believe, without exception, it is the best I have ever known or seen, it being of ease, comfort and safety, to the horse. I admit it is rather hard to learn, but by paying strict attention to Mr. Dunbar's teachings, it can be learned, that is to say, unless men are too lazy. No doubt it is rather hard on the hands, which is the principal cause some horse-shoers have for not applying it to its full extent. Besides, in treating a horse with lame or tender feet, we have to bear so much more of the weight of the horse, than when sound. The careless blacksmith wishes to get from under him as soon as possible, doing little or nothing to the foot.

A few weeks ago, I was ordered by Mr. Dunbar to the *President's* Stable, to operate on his little colt's foot, and on arriving there, I found Dr. Braley, his Excellency's groom, and a few more gentlemen. They all pronounced the disease in the large pastern joint, while Mr. Dunbar contended it was in the foot. I pared a little of the hard horn and found a hole large enough to admit the end of a pen-holder. I continued my work, and the corrupted mat-

ter began to ooze out. On examining the foot, Mr. Dunbar showed, to the astonishment of all present, the insensible sole separated from the sensible sole. I called a few days ago, to cut away the little loose horn that might conceal gravel, and I found the little foot in as healthy a condition as any of the others.

Also another case came to my notice to-day. Dr. Braley brought a horse to the shop for Mr. Dunbar to operate on. This case he had treated himself before, and pronounced it navicular disease, while Mr. Dunbar said not, and had me to apply his system, which was, in my candid opinion, the best I have seen yet, as it was contrary to the views of all present. I have gleaned more information from Mr. Dunbar's last course of instruction, than I really thought I was competent to learn.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

DAVID McCAULEY, *Horse-Shoer.*
Quarter Master's depot, Cor. 19th and M Streets.

ON DRIVING.

I suppose the late Hiram Woodruff has said sufficient on driving. Let it suffice, that the necessary qualities in a reliable driver are, a strong artistic eye, honesty of purpose, and steady nerve.

Horses in training should have set days for certain kinds of exercise ; say, speed twice in the week, and then no splurts or bursts of speed, and for not less than one mile ; better two, or more if his condition will bear it. There should be no relaxing up-grade. This method of bursts of speed on select portions of a road or track, causes many a fast horse to lose a race ; because, when he accomplishes the distance that he has been accustomed to splurt over, he is disposed to slack, and in doing so, either loses time or changes his gait. It has the same effect in ascending the grades ; the horse that is accustomed to being eased on up-grade work will act as in the former case. The up-grade portion of a track seems to be the terror of horsemen ; hence the modern idea of registering quarter and half mile tests, inferring that there is something wrong ; clay blood, cold blood, or want of endurance from some cause. The horse broken to make bursts of speed,

is like the child getting instruction in labor as a pastime, by way of amusement. He is always fidgety, and never can be relied upon.

Horses in general, suffer much. The class of men who have most to do with them, in an intellectual point of view would not compare favorably with those engaged in other branches of business, the salaries of grooms being insufficient to command the services of the most efficient class. For instance ;—Compare the ordinary drivers for draught and hack purposes, with those who are at the Heads of Departments ; as also at the principal posts ; and again, compare blacksmiths with mechanics of the finer arts, and you can then judge properly, how much the noble, much abused horse suffers through neglect and ignorance.

Rarey, Pratt, Scott and other horse educators, as they now call themselves, have said sufficient about their method of training, or "wearing in" the horse. The teaching is good for horses that have been mismanaged. Physical force must be used with the horse before kindness ; in fact the vicious, and in most cases, the stupid, ignorant one must first learn that his trainer is more powerful than himself before he becomes willing to accept of caresses in a proper spirit ; he then becomes most faithful to his conqueror, while treated courteously ; horses, men, and women's minds, are like liquids, the strongest will get uppermost. Colts are generally spoiled by having to wait on slow and steady horses, and still slower drivers.

The secret of success with a young spirited colt is, to be ready when *he* is ; with this precaution, there will be little occasion for "Rareying," except in cases of accident, which in most cases, happen through inefficiency in the driver.

I shall mention a few things which should be included in this system of training, and which neither Pratt nor Raney ever practiced to my knowledge, and I have seen both of them operate. The first is, to prevent a frisky horse from switching his tail. Tie a string, waxed, about the tail, six inches

from the root, sufficiently tight to cause it to swell, but not to remain so long as to cause the hair to fall out. This will effect the action of the tail similarly to the tying of a string around the arm or leg of a man, sufficient to prevent easy action.

Second :—To prevent rearing or plunging. Pierce the ears of a horse as you would the human ear, and tie a string or ribbon through them, drawing the ear back before tying ; as the horse rarely jumps without first pricking up his ears, and placing them forward as if perceiving something terrific, he cannot or will not jump, while his ears remain bound this way, except in rare case. The string in either case may be of the same color as the horse.

STIFLE.

There are but few horses stifled that are supposed to be so. The stifle-shoe being put on the sound limb, it is a sure test, if the horse can stand on the injured leg without the aid of two or three men while the blacksmith puts the shoe on the sound one, that he is not stifled.

Put a common working collar on the horse, also a surcingle with a ring at the bottom, then put a strap around the fetlock of the sound leg and attach a strap, a strip of raw hide or rope to the ring at the fetlock and through the ring of the girth, and attach it to the collar, drawing the sound leg half a pace forward. This places the unsound leg in a much better position than the stifle-shoe does, equalizing the weight without raising one leg higher than the other. If the horse is restless, the rope may be attached also to the hock, to keep him from treading on it.

For injury to the thigh or pelvis joint, attach in the same way as with the stifle. Only attach to the injured leg, draw it half a pace forward, bringing the rope or strap across under the belly to the ring which should be on the girth on the side of the sound leg ; the attachment after passing through the ring goes outside the fore-leg opposite before being attached to

the collar ; thus, in bringing the injured leg half a pace forward, you draw the injured leg toward the contra-fore one, thereby pressing the ligaments together,of the whirlbone joint, which has been strained, holding them in that position which, if kept so for a few days and nights, the horse will be well. In no case should the horse be allowed to lie down, either day or night ; neither should he have any bedding ; as straw, or anything uneven coming in contact with the toe, affects the ligaments connecting that delicate joint, which, having no third bone participating, like other stronger ones in forming the joint, suffers much more easily.

CHAPTER XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS.

LETTER FROM M. C. MEIGS.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington D. C. September 25th, 1869.

MR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,
Washington D. C.

SIR:

The Secretary of War directs me to inform you that he has decided on your letter of the 13th inst., that twenty five thousand dollars ($25,000) and no more, be paid to Mr. Dunbar for his services, as heretofore ordered.

Very Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS.
Quartermaster General, Bvt. Maj'r General U. S. A.

N. D. Bk. 13 W. 616, D 44 Decision Bk. 8 Page 420.

LETTER FROM L. H. RUCKER.

This is to certify that Mr. Alexander Dunbar has instructed the officers and farriers at this Post in the treatment of the hoof, preparatory to shoeing horses, with satisfactory results. He has also left models, engraved in soapstone, showing the difference between his method and that pursued by inexperienced farriers.

L. H. RUCKER,
Bv't. Cap't. U. S. A. 49th. Cav., A. A. Q. M.

Fort Davis, Texas., February 16th., 1869.

LETTER FROM WM. A. THOMPSON.

HEAD QUARTERS, "H." TROOP, 4th CAVALRY,
Camp Charlotte, Texas, February 6, 1869.

Mr. Dunbar, while at the camp, gave instructions to the officers, also the blacksmiths and farriers of the troop, relative to his mode of treating the horse's foot.

WM. A. THOMPSON.
2nd. Lieutenant 4th Cavalry, Commanding "H." Troop.

LETTER FROM T. W PORTER.

DEPOT, QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
San Antonio, August 24th 1869.

MR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,

DEAR SIR:

Agreeable to my promise made in January last, I will now proceed to communicate to you the success of your operations on the feet of my favorite trotting horse. Some weeks prior to your operating on him, he had been so lame with corns and contraction of the feet, as to be entirely unfit for use. After the operation, I had his feet kept in poultices of ground linseed, between three and four weeks: after the expiration of which time I found him as limber and able to travel as in his palmiest days, and he has been improving up to the present time; travels faster than he has ever done before.

I cannot express too much admiration for your system, and would not, for any consideration be debarred the knowledge I have acquired of it, and would cheerfully and urgently recommend every lover of a fine horse to adopt it.

I will further add that, of all the cases which have been treated according to your system, which have come under my observation, and they have been many, I know of not a single instance that it has not been highly beneficial to the horse. With the expression of my highest regards.

I remain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

T. W. PORTER.
Captain and A. Q. M., U. S. A.

LETTER FROM J. F. WADE.

HEAD QUARTERS, FORT STOCKTON,
February 17th, 1869.

DR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR has given officers and blacksmiths of the army instructions in the art of shoeing horses, according to his method. He has also exhibited the different forms of the foot, cut from gypsum. In my opinion it is very beneficial to the horse and the service.

J. F. WADE,
Majr. 9th. Cav., Bt. Col.
EUGENE D. DIMMICK,
Lt. 9th. U. S. Cav., Post Adjutant.

LETTER FROM JOHN S. POND.

FORT DAVIS, TEXAS,
February 16, 1869.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR, ESQ.

SIR:

My knowledge of the horse, and the proper condition in which his feet should be, was vastly improved after receiving your instructions. I think I can now safely say, I have a much better knowledge of a horse's foot than I ever had before; and after partially superintending the shoeing of my mare in your presence, I must say I am both pleased and surprised at the result, and hope your system (as taught us) will be duly appreciated by all lovers of horses, and especially the Cavalry.

Your soapstane models left with us, will tend to keep your instructions fresh in our memory.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. POND,
1st. Lt. and Adj't., 9th. Cav., Bv't. Capt. U. S. A.

LETTER FROM N. H. DAVIS.

FT. UNION N. M., August 20. 1869.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:

I have been so busily engaged here in my official duties, that the enclosed letter was, therefore, written quite hastily. If it will be of any service to you, I shall be much pleased. The more I see your system applied, the more proof I have of its great benefit.

I should like very much to procure some models of the horse's foot you spoke of, when at Ft. Leavenworth. Can you send me some there?

Also if your time permitted I would like to have you drop me a line, with some particulars regarding the treatment for Chest founder, sand and quarter crack &c.

This is to know if my ideas on these subjects are correct. Any information upon any point will be thankfully received.

Hoping you will address me at Ft. Leavenworth, for which place I leave in the morning, and wishing you health and success,

I remain yours very truly,

N. H. DAVIS, U. S. A.

DR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,
Washington D. C.

LETTER FROM R. A. DUPONT.

HEADQUARTER'S LT. BATT'Y "F" 5TH ARTILLERY,
Sedgwick Barrack, Washington, D. C., Aug. 7, 1869.

Sir:

It affords me much pleasure to state that since October 1868, the horses of this battery have been shod according to your system, and that most beneficial results have ensued therefrom. The second course of instruction given this summer by Capt. Taylor and yourself has been of special value, after the practical experience acquired during the winter. I am fully satisfied that your method of treating the horse's foot is the correct one; that if faithfully and fairly tried, it will be found to keep the feet in sound condition, prevent lameness, and completely restore a great many unserviceable animals.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. A. DUPONT
Capt. 5th Artillery Bt. Lt. Col. Com'g. "F." Battery "F."

DR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,
Washington D. C.

LETTER FROM N. H. DAVIS.

FORT UNION, NEW MEXICO,
August 20th, 1869,

DR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,
Washington, D. C.

Dear sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst, asking an expression of my opinion with regard to your system of treating the horse's foot, was received this day, and it gives me pleasure to add, to that of many others, my testimony in favor of your system, as being so much better than the old system heretofore practiced, that a comparison between the two cannot well be made.

First, the merits of your system, as I understand it, is, that it is based in good, sound reason and common sense. Secondly, it is simple and easy in its application; and finally, the result of its use has proven beyond question, its merits, and demonstrated its great benefits.

Since witnessing its application and benefit under your instruction, I have several times seen it applied by others with like charming results. If your method of treating the horse's foot should be taught and practiced in the United States Army, it will, in my opinion, be of incalculable benefit to the government and individuals, and, moreover, relieve from much pain and suffering, the noblest animal used by man. You have pointed out where to look for many of the causes of lameness and injury to the horse, which was

not before known, and also taught us how to cure or relieve the same.

I wish you success in your efforts to properly introduce and make known your valuable system, and trust you will be duly rewarded for your labor in so good a cause.

With respects, your ob't sv't,

N. H. DAVIS,
Ass't Q. M. Gen'l, U. S. A.

LETTER FROM W. A. THOMPSON.

CAMP CHARLOTTE, TEXAS.
Feb. 25th, 1869.

MR. A. DUNBAR,

My dear sir:

I think you will excuse me for my familiarity, for I am anxious to let you know how the horses are coming on, which I have treated according to your directions. My horse met with a very severe accident, while being shod. He is of a very restless nature, and timid, being prairie raised. He was tied to a post, and somehow struck his eye against it. At first I was very much worried, as it looked as if he had ruptured the ball, but by proper treatment, I soon relieved him; 24 hours afterward the inflammation was nearly all out. The hoofs were cut according to model, but the blacksmith cut a little too deep, for one of his feet bled; it did not seem to hurt him.

The Dr. and I intended to go prospecting, (i. e. looking for Indians and gold) the next day, and his eye being so much better, I thought I would use him to test his feet. We rode 25 miles, and one-third of the way over mountains covered with honey-comb rock. Perhaps you noticed the stone when traveling through this section.

I was afraid I was testing the matter a little too far, his feet being so thin, but I did not, and it was astonishing to see how he traveled; he seemed to step out with greater ease and freedom than he ever did before. I observed closely his actions during the trip, and I feel confident his motive powers were increased one-eighth without any extra exertion on his part. What horses I have had shod, are doing finely. The actions of my horse will answer for all. I have received a general order from head quarters of the army, relative to the care and treatment, of public animals. It is a very judicious order, and my beau-ideal of the way horses should be treated. I have been carrying out a great portion of the order long ago.

I am going to take the liberty to write frequently, whenever I have any new cases. I would be indebted, if you would answer when you have the time.

Senator Wilson's "Army Bill" abolishes the office of Veterinary Surgeon in cavalry regiments, which ought to have been done long ago; a cavalry officer should have sense enough to treat his own horses.

I am alone, and "Camp Charlotte" seems rather dull. Excuse the length of this epistle.

Long life and happiness to you, thou benefactor of the *Horse.*

Your's truly,

W. A. TOMPSON.
Lieu't. 4th. Cav.

LETTER FROM W. B. LANE.

HEAD QUARTERS, FORT SELDEN N. H.
April 3rd, 1869.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that I saw in operation, before leaving the states (at Carlisle Barracks Pa.) and also when passing through Texas to this Post, the system in vogue for treating horses feet, shoeing &c. by "Mr. Alexander Dunbar," who is (or was) under contract for the purpose of giving instructions to officers and farriers of cavalry regiments.

In my opinion, the system of Mr. Dunbar cannot be too widely known in the Army, and if Officers and Farriers of Cavalry Regiments, were well taught in this branch of taking care of public animals, it would be the means of saving *thousands* of *dollars* to the *government.*

In view of the above facts, I would respectfully request that Mr. Alexander Dunbar be sent to the 3rd U. S cavalry.

I am sir:

Very respectfully, your ob't sv't,

W. B. LANE.
Major 3rd, U. S. Cavalry, and Bv't. Lt. Col.. U. S. A. Comd'g Post.

To:

QUARTERMASTER GEN'L U. S. A.
Washington D. C.
Through Regimental Commander.

LETTER FROM J. CARTER MARBURY.

GEORGETOWN, D. C., Oct. 12th, 1864.

As one of the directors of the Washington and Georgetown R. R. Co., I have been instructed by Dr. Alexander Dunbar in his method of preserving the feet, and curing the diseases to which the hoofs of horses are liable. I am confident that his instructions will be of great service to the company, in preventing the loss of many horses which would otherwise be condemned as useless. Thousands of horses would be saved to the government annually, if treated upon Dr. Dunbar's plan.

J. CARTER MARBURY.
Solicitor, Washington R. R. Co.

LETTER FROM L. LOURY MOOR.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington D. C. July 20th, 1866.

MR. A. DUNBAR.

Sir.

Having been informed that you were endeavoring to introduce your system of treatment of horse's diseased hoofs, and having some knowledge of your treatment from personal observation, and feeling anxious for the introduction of any remedies for the amelioration of the suffering of the most noble animal (the horse,) I take pleasure in stating that, in my judgment, a general application of your system would greatly lead to that end, and reduce the mortality of the horse.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

L. LOURY MOOR.

Captain Q. M. G. Office.

LETTER FROM C. BAKER.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
Corner of 22nd and G Streets, Washington D. C. 1866.

DR. DUNBAR.

Sir—Your remedies for the cure of horse's diseased feet seem to meet with universal satisfaction wherever tried, and as you are highly recommended by Hon. George W. Patterson, Ex-Governor of New York, it leaves no doubt in any mind, but what your remedies are as recommended. I have been well acquainted with *Mr. Patterson*, for many years, and from a knowledge of his judgment, I would not hesitate to vouch for anything to which his name is attached.

Very respectfully,

C. BAKER.

Captain and Act. Q. M.

LETTER FROM J. W. THOMPSON.

OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN R. R. COMPANY,
Washington D. C. November 23rd, 1866.

This company purchased from Dr. Dunbar, in August 1866, his system for treating horse's feet; since that time it has been tested sufficiently to allow me to say, that I consider it of incalculable value to this Company. Several horses which had become almost useless, have been rendered again serviceable by his system of treatment. By this system it is clearly demonstrated that the foot of the horse is the principal seat of lameness. Not the least of the benefits derived from this system is, a knowledge of the structure and anatomy of the horse's foot, which makes it of great value in the purchase of horses.

As an illustration of this fact, I will state that while in a neighbouring city, a few weeks ago, a very fine trotting mare was offered me on account of lameness, at a price less than half her value. Some of the best Veterinary surgeons had treater her, without benefit. On consultation with Mr. Dunbar I purchased her. We have been treating her by his system for three weeks, and now she has so far improved that the lameness is hardly perceptible. I feel no hesitation, therefore, in commending this system to the favorable consideration of Horse R. R. Companies, and others dealing in horses.

Signed, J. W. THOMPSON,
President.

LETTER FROM A. K. GAGE.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.
April 12th, 1865.

MR. DUNBAR.

Sir:

After having spent several years in the study of the different diseases of the horse, and especially those pertaining to the foot, which in my opinion are less understood and more frequently mistreated, than that of any other part of the animal. I find after an examination of your specimens of the many bone diseases pertaining to the foot, and with the instructions given by you, that I have learned much valuable information.

I have had for the last four years many Gov't horses in my charge, and have had many condemned by veterinary surgeons for lameness, which they were unable to treat for the want of knowing the cause, and I now think many of them might have been restored to service, if they had been properly treated.

Yours with respect,

A. K. GAGE.
Civil Inspector of Horses.
Late sup't of Transportation, 19th, Army Corps.

LETTER FROM CHARLES KNAPP.

GENERAL:

Mr. Dunbar has operated on one of my carriage horses with great success. I think Mr. Dunbar entitled to much consideration, and would be glad to have you exercise your influence in his favor.

Very respectfully,
Your ob't serv't,
CHARLES KNAPP.

LT. GEN. GRANT.
MARCH 15, 1871.

LETTER FROM BRIGADIER GENERAL McFERRAN.

DEPOT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., July 21st, 1869.

MR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR:

Washington, D. C.

SIR:

I enclose for your information, copy of letter from Quartermaster General, United States Army, fixing your duties here. You will take charge of the Government Shoeing Shops, and occupy the same room on M Street that you formerly occupied for the purpose of a lecture-room.

You will please be present at the shops from 9 to 3 o'clock, daily, and give lessons to any officers and farriers who may apply to you therefor; also report to Colonels Dupont and Mason, and instruct any officers and farriers they may desire to place under your instruction.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

J. C. McFERRAN,
Deputy Q. M. Genl., Bvt. Brig. Genl., U. S. A.

LETTER FROM THOMAS McSPEDEN.

NEW YORK, January 31, 1866.

HON. NELSON TAYLOR,

MY DEAR SIR:

This will introduce to your notice, my friend, Mr. Alexander Dunbar, who visits Washington with a view of making arrangements with the government to introduce his system of remedying the defects in the feet of horses, and also of preventing such defects, which he will explain to you.

In doing this, I am not only governed by the interest of my friend Dunbar, but also for the benefit and relief of that noble and useful animal, the horse. I have witnessed some of the most astonishing cures brought about by his system, and we have a horse on my property, corner of Fourth Avenue and Seventy-third Street, that last Fall was one of the worst cases of founder that I ever witnessed. He had scarcely "a leg to stand on," his chest was not broader than your two fists, and so stiff that he could scarcely step; indeed my friend who had him, got Mr. Dunbar to take him away, as it was painful to see his efforts to move. I would not have taken him as a gift with $100 thrown in, were I compelled to keep him, as I believed, until he died. Mr. Dunbar brought back the horse about one month since, and he looks like a colt; his chest has filled out, his feet, which were contracted until they were less than the size of a mule's, have spread at the heels, and he looks, and is, as fine as you please. My family rode behind him on

various occasions during the sleighing, and they were not afraid of being passed by any one on the road, either.

I also saw another horse, given him by the 3rd Ave. R. R. people, that was in the most sorry plight, with "fistula," and considered incurable. She was disgusting to look at. He made a thorough cure, and my friend sold her about two weeks since. In few words, his cures are astonishing.

Now Gen'l, if you can forward the interests of Mr. Dunbar in this direction, you will also be forwarding the interest of our Government, and also, as I said before, of that noble animal, the horse.

Mr. Dunbar is a worthy and good man, and anything you will be able to do for him, will be remembered with gratitude by him, and appreciated by

Yours truly,

THOMAS McSPEDEN.

Will you please introduce Mr. Dunbar to Mr. Darling, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Jones, and the member from Winchester, in my name, and let them see my letter. Under ordinay circumstances, General, I would not ask so much of you, but I hope you will, on my representation of what I have seen, think as I do; that it is important to the government, as well as to Mr. Dunbar.

Signed T. McS.

LETTER FROM A. J. HOLLOWOOD.

PORT BURRILL, May 12, 1862.

DR. A. DUNBAR.

Sir.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that I make the following statement, hoping that it may induce others, whose horses were troubled as mine, to try your remedies, which cannot fail giving satisfaction.

My two horses that you operated upon, for what is called quarter-crack in the heel, and contracted hoof, are as sound (as far as I can see,) as they were when one year old.

Respectfully yours,

A. J. HOLLOWOOD.

LETTER FROM S. V. R. WELLS.

WESTFIELD June 20th, 1864.

I know Dr. Hall very well. The mare that Dr. Hall speaks of I used to own. The quarter crack was a very bad one, and lamed the mare, but Mr. Dunbar has cured it entirely. She is worth fifty dollars more to-day than she was before.

I would recommend him to all.

S. V. R. WELLS.

LETTER FROM G. A. HALL, M. D.

WESTFIELD, May 6, 1864.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN!

It affords me plesure to introduce Dr. Dunbar as an original, scientific, and skillful veterinary surgeon.

Dr. Dunbar operated upon a *mare* of mine, that had become almost worthless upon the road, in consequence of a very bad quarter-crack. Immediately after the operation, she was shod, and the same day driven twenty miles with but very little flinching, and now she is entirely over it.

He also operated upon a very fine Morgan mare, owned by I. Sherman, and one owned by his neighbor Mr. Barge, both supposed to be foundered, but the trouble was all in the feet, and after the operation for "contraction," they could stand with ease; and although it will take time to perfect a cure, yet from what I am permitted to know of his operation, and its nature, I am confident that in the space of two months they will be as sound as ever.

He has operated upon many others for similar difficulties, and in all cases with perfect satisfaction. I would earnestly recommend him to the consideration of all who may be interested in the welfare of the horse.

G. A. HALL, M. D.

LETTER FROM GEORGE GATES.

GEISBORO, D. C. Aug. 29, 1864.

COL. JAMES A. EKIN.
In charge of 1st Div. Q. M. G. O.
Washington D. C.

COLONEL:

In accordance with your orders, I have, together with my colleagues, examined *Mr. Dunbar's* specimens of diseased feet of horses. We have been much surprised by Mr. Dunbar pointing to us defects that we have never observed before, neither have we read of them in any author's works. The result with us was, that we rejected horses, immediately, that we otherwise would have accepted, and also examined and condemned many, formerly selected for the Shenandoah Valley. We remember several valuable horses in the past having become useless from very simple defects, which we understand now, but did not then, and which, through Mr. Dunbar's system, no doubt could have been saved to the service.

Signed, GEORGE GATES, *Inspector.*
do. THOMAS GRIMLY.
1st, Lt. 8th. Ill. Cavalry.

LETTER FROM ALEXANDER J. PERRY.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington D. C. Jan. 17th 1870.

MR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,

Sir:

It gives me pleasure to inform you of the complete success that has attended your mode of treatment in the shoeing of one of my horses, which was suffering from severe and apparently a chronic condition of lameness, produced from tenderness and inflammation of the feet.

I have caused your method of cutting and preparing the foot for shoeing to be faithfully carried out in his case, and I do not doubt, that the freedom of motion of the horse, the ease and squareness of his position, and correct placing of his front feet, while standing, are wholly attributable to the treatment of his feet, in accordance with your method.

Very respectfully,

ALEX. J. PERRY.
B't General.

LETTER FROM N. GOETZ.

UNION HILL, June 16th, 1865.

I have tested Mr. Dunbar's system on diseases of horse's feet, as also for general defect, since the first of November last, and have found it very beneficial.

I saved a horse with flatulent colic, not more than two weeks since, that certainly must have died by any other treatment that I was before aware of.

It is the essence of economy in a Railway Company to purchase it, however embarrassed. I again pronounce it invaluable.

N. GOETZ.
Director and Superintendent, of Hob. and W. H. R. R. Co.

From what I learn from our superintendent, Mr. Goebz, I do not hesitate to state that the information obtained from Mr. Dunbar in regard to the treatment of horse's hoofs is well deserving the attention of horse railroad and stage line managers, it being the means of saving, by a comparative small outlay, the health and usefulness of many a horse.

HOBOKEN June 24th, 1865.

D. T. BONN.
President of the Hoboken agd Weehawken and the west Hoboken Horse R, R. Co.

LETTER FROM W. S. WOOD.

12 East 16th, Street NEW YORK,
Oct. 31st, 1865.

MR. A. DUNBAR,

I address you these few lines, to add my testimony to the many you have, of the value of your treatment of the foot. The explanation you gave

me and the successful operation I have seen on three of my own horses and one of Mr. Kendall, a very bad case, give me, I think, a fair chance to judge of its usefulness and the correctnes of the principles on which it is founded. I wish my endorsement of it could be of more value to you, but for what it is worth I cheerfully give it you.

Wishing you much success,

I am yours,

W. S. WOOD.

LETTER FROM JOHN O'BRIAN.

OFFICE OF WM. & JOHN O'BRIAN,
No. 58 Wall St. New York Sept. 14th, 1865.

GEORGE LAW, ESQ.,

Dear Sir:

This will be handed you by Dr. Dunbar, who wishes to present to your notice his methed of cutting horse's contracted feet. We have been experimenting with the process on the second avenue Road for a couple of weeks past, and are thus far so pleased with the result of the operations as to feel warranted in recommending his plan to your consideration. Dr. Dunbar will lay before you a number of certificates from other Roads, that have been benefited by his advice and suggestions.

Very respectfully,

JOHN O'BRIAN.

Treasurer of the 2nd Ave. Rail Road.

LETTER FROM ED. BALL.

OFFICE OF U. S. CAV. AND ARMY HORSES,
Syracuse, N. Y. April 13th, 1865.

MR. ALEXANDER DUNBAR,

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in adding to the many valuable testimonials you have on the treatment of the various diseases of horse's feet.

Since I saw your specimens of diseased feet at Geisboro, D. C., in Aug. last, and from the knowledge obtained from you on the different formations and effects of horse's feet, I have been quite able to judge the sound from the unsound, which I was in doubt of previous to my examination of your specimens of diseased feet, and I have, in the course of my inspection of cavalry and artillery horses presented for purchase to the U. S. Gov't, rejected many on account of defects of the feet which I should otherwise have taken had it not been for your valuable information.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't sv't,

ED. BALL.

1st. Lt. 2nd U. S. Cav.

Not only in the case of Lt. Ball, but in many others have the government derived much benefit after purchasing my system from me, in the same way that it did through him, as the reader will observe from the statements of other inspectors.

LETTER FROM ERASTUS WELLS.

ST. LOUIS Sept. 13th, 1867.

DR. A. DUNBAR,

Dear Sir:

Allow me to present this one slight acknowledgment of the much valuable information received from you for the treatment of the diseases horse's flesh is subject to, especially, contraction of the foot, corns or cracked or split hoofs. After one-fourth of a century's experience in the omnibus and street car business in this city, and having examined sundry authors, and conferred with and employed innumerable number of Horse Farriers, I find the problem in regard to the true and proper mode of treating horses feet, for contraction, split hoof, &c. had never been solved, until you so effectually demonstrated the matter by practical experiments at our stables, and it is a pleasure to have an opportunity to give my hearty approval of your mode of treatment, and believe none should hesitate a moment in adopting your course of treatment, which is so simple, and causes such immediate relief. Believing you to be a great benefactor in the direction long since needed, and hoping your good work may go on, allow me to subscribe

Myself, respectfully,

ERASTUS WELLS.

President Missouri R. R. Co.

I fully concur in the foregoing.

ALFRED W. HENRY SP'T.

Bellefontaine R. R. Office St. Louis Mo. Sept. 13th, 1867.

It affords me much pleasure *Doctor,* to join my testimonial of your valuable services, with the foregoing.

Respectfully,

G. W. ALEXANDER.

Superintendent.

LETTER FROM THOMAS C. ROBBINS.

OFFICE OF COVINGTON CITY RAILWAY CO.
Covington Oct. 10th, 1867.

To all whom it may concern.

This is to certify, that I have purchased and tested Dr. Dunbar's theory of disease in the feet of horses, and his practice in curing them and preventing the same, and am satisfied that the

information that he possesses in relation to correct and proper treatment of disease in the feet of horses, and as a guide in the purchase of sound horses, is of great value. I recommend the managers of Horse Railways to acquire the information which the Doctor is able to impart, and intelligently apply to the cure and prevention of diseases in the feet of the horse. I regard sound feet of the utmost importance in the horse for street railway use, and all correct information to cure and prevent unsoundness of this important part of the horse, of great value.

THOMAS C. ROBBINS,
Sup't. Covington City Railway.

I fully endorse the above.

EDWARD JOHNSON,
Stable Foreman.

I have treated several horses for lameness with perfect success since I purchased Dr. Dunbar's theory and practice of disease, and prevention of disease, in horses' feet. One case in particular, where the lameness was thought to be in the shoulder, by so-called good judges, I relieved immediately by "Dunbar's" treatment of the foot. Although very lame before the treatment she is now well and active as ever. The treatment is simple, reasonable, and easily understood. I would not take five times the amount paid for the information, and be deprived of it. I cheerfully recommend Dr. Dunbar to all persons desiring correct information as to the cause and cure of disease in horses' feet.

THOMAS C. ROBBINS,
Sup't Covington City Railway.

LETTER FROM R. JOHNSON.

OFFICE BROADWAY R. R. CO.
South Boston Aug. 14th, 1867.

This is to certify that I have thoroughly examined Dr. Dunbar's treatment of the horse's foot, &c. and I consider his treatment the very best yet introduced. I have never before been satisfied that a horse was worth much of anything after his feet were contracted, and he had been troubled with corns, &c., &c. I now believe that all the above difficulties can be removed, and the horse can be made nearly as good as ever.

I cheerfully recommend Dr. Dunbar to all horsemen, and all lovers of the horse.

Your's truly,

R. JOHNSON,
Sup't. B. R. R. Co.

TO DR. A. DUNBAR.

LETTER FROM WM. A. THOMPSON.

FORT HELENA, KAMES CO. TEXAS.

MR. A. DUNBAR,

My dear sir:

I have been intending to write you for some time, in reference to your mode of treating inflammation of the foot or acute founder. I have not had any cases yet, but as an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," for fear that I should, I want to know how to go to work, when I do. Youatt says, bleeding is indispensable, and should be done by cutting the artery at the point of the coffin bone, four quarts of blood taken from each foot, poultices of linseed meal to be applied to feet after paring the feet thin, &c. Would that be your manner of treating such cases? if so, how would it do to add laudanum to the poultice? Should the horse be kept down during sickness? Before I left the Concho I had my horses carefully shod, got them in as fine condition as possible preparatory for the march to this place (380 m's.), did not have a lame horse during the trip, which is conclusive proof that if our horses are shod according to your mode, we will have little cause for fear any aggravated cases of lameness. I have been studying into the causes of "Navicular joint lameness," which, as you well know, is considered incurable. I agree with Turner, (Turner on the Navicular Disease Veterinarian,) that the cause of the disease is the pressure brought to bear upon the navicular bone, by the gradual contraction of the hoof, which is helped along by the old mode of shoeing.

I am strongly of the opinion, your mode of preparing the hoof, and shoeing, will counteract that pressure, and horses suffering from that disease, can be relieved, if not cured.

I will be very glad to have a few lines from you upon this subject, as soon as convenient.

I remain, yours, respectfully,

WM. A. THOMPSON,

2d Lieut. 4th U. S. Cav.

HELENA,

KAMES CO., TEXAS.

See Letter of Mr. J. B. Coleman, page 11.

HORSE, CATTLE AND DOG INFIRMARY, AND HORSE-SHOEING ESTABLISHMENT,

Nos. 133 and 214 German Street, Baltimore, Md.

J. B. COLEMAN,

(*Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, England.*)

Gratefully acknowledges the very liberal support he has received since he has settled in Baltimore, and desires to acquaint his patrons, and the public generally, that he has opened an Infirmary for the medical treatment of SICK HORSES, and his residence has been removed from Howard Street, to 116 German Street, nearly opposite the Infirmary.

The general business of shoeing will be conducted so as to induce, in the highest degree, efficient workmanship, equitable charges, and the least possible delay.

THE DUNBAR PROCESS.

Almost all the *foot* lameness of town-horses are due to CONTRACTION OF THE HEELS—which contraction is due, mainly, to injudicious methods of shoeing. It is equally true that horses may be shod either to prevent or cure lameness, and to enable them to sustain the exigencies of town wear and tear. By the aid of Dunbar's method of treatment, and shoeing, which Mr. Coleman is empowered to employ, the evils complained of can be mitigated and corrected. In all cases relief is given; and with very few exceptions, no matter how long the lameness may have existed, an absolutely permanent cure can be effected. He feels so perfectly sure of the truth of this statement—that in all cases suitable for this method of treatment, he accepts the principle of payment by results; in other words, "NO CURE, NO PAY."

The following names of gentlemen whose horses have been successfully treated, either by Mr. Dunbar or Mr. Coleman, are given strictly by permission, as references as to the efficiency and value of this process of treatment:

J. L. JOHNSTON, Esq., Banker, Baltimore Street.
HENRY JOHNSTON, " " " "
W. H. GRAHAM, " " " "
WM. DEVRIES, " Merchant " "
JESSE TYSON, " Lexington Street.
J. R. GOLIBART, " Canton Steam Saw Mill.
E. CLABAUGH, " South Street.
E. L. MAYER, " 4 North Howard Street.
G. O. WILSON, " 71 Lexington Street.
G. DELPHEY, " Linden Avenue Livery Stables.

Mr. Coleman has operated for other well-known gentlemen, who, at present are absent from Baltimore, but whose names would not be given without permission.

RBC
FAIRMAN ROGERS
619.19
D919